

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Tuesday, the 13th March 1934.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT :

Usman Sahib Bahadur, K.C.I.E., The
Hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.
Krishnan Nayar, Kt., The Hon. Diwan
Bahadur Sir M.
Campbell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., V.D.,
I.C.S., The Hon. Sir Archibald.
Stokes, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The
Hon. Sir Hopetoun.
Raja of Bobbili, The Hon. the.
Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon.
Diwan Bahadur S.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, A. M.
Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.
Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.
Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P.
Birley, Mr. F.
Devadasan, Mr. M.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
DuraiSwami Reddiyar, Mr. K. M.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Foulkes, Mr. R.
Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Diwan Baha-
dur N.
Harischandrudu Nayudu, Mr. A.
Hood, I.C.S., Mr. H. M.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan
Bahadur P.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnayya Choudari, Mr. P. V.
Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.
Krishnan, Mr. C.
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The.
Ladden, Mr. W. W.
Lakshmana Reddi, Mr. G.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur,
Khan Bahadur.
Manikkavelu, Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Metherell, Mr. J. K.

Moses, Mr. P. C.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Nachiappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major
S. A.
Narasa Reddi, Mr. T.
Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.
Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Palat, Mr. R. M.
Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.
Patro, Kt., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K.
Pattagar of Palavakottai, The.
Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Raja of Parlakimedi, The.
Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A.
Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur
T. A.
Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan
Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam Pantulu, Mr. G.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N.
Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. Conran.
Sreshtha, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan
Sahib.

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PRESENT—cont.

Thangal, Mr. P. M.
 Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
 Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
 Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
 Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
 Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.

Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
 Viswanatha Rao, Diwan Bahadur V. N.
 Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
 Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Law and Order (General)

Declaration of the Swarajya Asram at Polavaram as an unlawful association.

* 778 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Swarajya Asram of Polavaram, East Godavari Agency, was declared unlawful in 1932; and

(b) whether such notification was since withdrawn; and if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) The members of the Swarajya Asram at Polavaram in the district of East Godavari were declared to be an unlawful association on 1st February 1932 under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act; the Asram was not itself notified as a 'place' or taken possession of by the Government. The question of relinquishing possession of it or withdrawing the notification in respect of it does not therefore arise.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, in view of more settled conditions now prevalent in the country, what justification there is for the continuance of the notification? "

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" If the hon. Member will read the answer to the question, he will find ' the question of relinquishing possession of it or withdrawing the notification in respect of it does not therefore arise '."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Arising out of the answer to clauses (a) and (b), the important question is, in view of the more settled conditions now prevalent, whether there is any justification for the continuance of the notification? "

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" As far as I know, the notification is not in force now."

Declaration of the Polavaram Swarajya Asram and the Sitanagaram Gowtami Asram as unlawful associations.

* 779 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Polavaram Swarajya

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Asram and the Sitanagaram Gowtami Asram in East Godavari district were declared unlawful associations; and, if so, why, when and in whose possession they are now?

A.—As regards the Polavaram Swarajya Asram, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 778.

As regards the Sitanagaram Gowtami Asram, the members of it were declared to be an unlawful association on the 9th January 1932 on account of their activities in furtherance of Civil Disobedience and the place was notified under subsection (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Association Ordinance, 1932, on the 16th January 1932, on the ground that it was used for the purpose of the Sitanagaram Asram, the members of which were declared to be an unlawful association. The Asram has been returned to Mr. B. Subrahmanyam, the first member and President of the Asram.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“The answer states that the members of the Asram were declared to be unlawful association. I want to know, how can they be individually declared an unlawful association?”

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“We had authority of our legal adviser to take action in the manner we have taken.”

Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Asram was handed over to Mr. Subrahmanyam intact, or some articles were confiscated?”

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“As far as I remember, I do not think there was confiscation.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know, Sir, if the association has been declared unlawful or the members?”

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“It is stated in the answer.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“No, Sir. I request the Hon. Home Member to read the answer. It is stated there, ‘on the 16th January 1932, on the ground that it was used for the purpose of the Sitanagaram Asram, the members of which were declared to be an unlawful association.’”

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“All the members of the Asram were declared to be an unlawful association.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“I want to know whether the members were declared unlawful collectively or individually?”

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—“I would request the hon. Member to draw his own conclusion by reading the answer.”

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Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—" May I know if the Government have received any representation from Mr. Subrahmanyam that some articles in the Asram have not been handed over to him? "

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" Notice, Sir."

Land Revenue Administration

Probation of clerks of the Settlement Department re-employed on the District Revenue Staff.

* 780 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered that retrenched and disbanded clerks of the Settlement Department should be re-employed on the District Revenue Staff;

(b) whether the previous service of clerks so re-employed in the Revenue Department is taken into consideration for fixing the date of completion of the period of probation as required in rule 6 (b) of the general rules laid down in G.O. No. 712, dated 2nd July 1929; and

(c) whether it is a fact that certain Collectors in Northern Circars have taken the temporary service also in fixing the date of completion of probation of retrenched and disbanded Settlement clerks and are thus giving and have given them a preferential claim for retention or confirmation in service over the candidates who have been taken as probationers or who have completed their probation prior to the re-employment of the Settlement clerks?

A.—(a) The Government have directed that the subordinates discharged from Settlement parties as a measure of retrenchment should be distributed among the districts with a view to their being re-employed in the regular line in the districts. As regards Settlement subordinates discharged otherwise than as a measure of retrenchment, Collectors have discretion to appoint them in the regular line if they are qualified for such appointment.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government have no definite information in regard to the action taken by the Collectors referred to. The orders of the Government on the point are that the seniority of men discharged as a measure of retrenchment should be fixed with reference to rule 6 (4) of the Madras Retrenchment and Re-employment Rules and that of men discharged otherwise than as a measure of retrenchment should be fixed with reference to the date on which they completed their probation and in the case of probationers with reference to the total period of probation undergone by each.

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Medical Administration

Alleged paucity of Telugu-knowing lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

* 781 Q.—MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras Services Commission could not appoint the required number of Telugu-knowing lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons though there were several lady L.M.P. candidates, simply because they had not passed their S.S.L.C. examinations;

(b) what the reasons are for the Government insisting upon their passing the S.S.L.C. examination when they are fully qualified L.M.Ps.; and

(c) whether there is any restriction for admitting only passed S.S.L.Cs. into the Medical schools; if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) The Madras Services Commission reported that a certain number of the applicants for appointment as Women Sub-Assistant Surgeons did not possess the minimum general educational qualifications laid down in the general rules relating to the subordinate services and suggested that the qualification may be made inapplicable to the class of Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The Government have accepted the suggestion and amended the Statutory Rules accordingly. The Government have no information whether any of the applicants referred to above are Telugus.

(c) Under the existing rules regulating admission to medical schools, only S.S.L.C. holders who are declared eligible for admission to a University course of study and have secured 40 per cent of the marks in English and have taken Physics or Chemistry or both as optionals are eligible for admission to medical schools.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ I have to announce that the Madras Local Boards and the Madras Elementary Education (Amendment) Act of 1934 received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 10th March 1934.”

III.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION—TRANSFERRED.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Mr. Basheer Ahmed will continue his speech.”

* MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I was speaking yesterday about the position of those employees of the Government who have already been in service and without consulting whose

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rights new statutory rules and orders have been brought into existence, affecting their cases in many respects adversely. There were several clerks and sub-registrars in the Registration Department who were entertained years ago. Some of them were given exemptions from Public Service Notification and in certain other cases they were exempted up to a certain stage entitling them to draw a certain scale of salary. In all those cases, it seems as though the rules are given retrospective effect. Such retrospective effect acts to the great detriment of those employees who never bargained for such things when they first entered service. In these cases, I urge that the Minister and the Member for Services will take into consideration the hardship that has been caused to those employees who have been already doing service under the Government with no expectation of any impediment being thrown in the way of their promotion and confirmation, so long as they were doing their duty to the satisfaction of the officers of the department and the Government. Particularly, Sir, there are a large number of members belonging to the backward communities who have been exempted at the time they entered service and those servants have put in fifteen or twenty years' service in the department; and when the question of their promotion as sub-registrars from clerks or from sub-registrars to registrars comes up, if the present statutory rules and orders are to be adhered to, then it is hardly just or fair towards the servants of Government who were naturally expecting to be promoted in the usual course without any such rules being made applicable to them. If the new rules are to be made applicable to Government servants, even as has been recently done in the case of revised scales of salaries and revised rules, that should apply only to future entrants and that the rights that have already accrued to the employees who were already in Government service ought not to be affected by any later rules and regulations. I therefore want, Sir, that the question of those persons in the Registration department who were entertained long before the new statutory rules and orders were passed, should be examined so as to enable them to get their promotion that is naturally due to them without any further impediments being thrown in their way. There are very many hard cases of that kind and, if required, the Inspector-General of Registration would place those particulars before the Government and, if the Government would investigate into the claims of those persons favourably, they will be only doing bare justice to those employees who have been looking forward to some promotion or other having rendered faithful and loyal service to the Government for long years.

“Now, Sir, with regard to the fixing of a certain percentage of appointments for persons already in the department, there has been considerable delay. I am not yet certain whether the question has been settled and what proportion has been fixed for the people already in service in regard to future vacancies. I refer in particular to those clerks who have already acted or who are expecting to become sub-registrars by means of promotion. If there is direct recruitment to any and every vacancy, then the chances of those people who are already in service expecting promotion as sub-registrars or district registrars

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are lost for ever. I have learned—I do not know how far it is the case—that 25 per cent of the appointments are to be reserved for servants already in the department and that they would be filled up by promotion. I submit, Sir, that 25 per cent is not a very fair and just proportion. I would urge that something like 50 per cent of the appointments should be reserved for persons to be promoted from the department itself. If it is only 25 per cent, as it often happens that the number of vacancies in an office is only very small and if you stick to this percentage, it will not be possible for the Inspector-General to redress the claims of the several sections of the people in the matter of promotions. It is never the case that 100 or 200 vacancies arise all on a sudden, but on the other hand, there may be 10, 15 or 20 vacancies at the most at a time and, if you apportion only 25 per cent thereof for such promotions, the claims of the several communities will not be met and it will practically be impossible. Unless therefore the percentage of promotions from the department is raised, I think considerable hardship and difficulty will be felt, not only by the candidates who are entitled to promotions, but also by the Government in working it up. I therefore plead for raising the proportion from 25 per cent—if the Government have already reached this decision—to somewhere about 50 per cent.

“I do not want to take up the time of the House any more, but I would in conclusion like to refer to one point only. Reference has already been made that, on account of the introduction of photography, a large number of people have been thrown out of employment, particularly in the Malabar district. We should be very thankful if the Government would let us know how they propose to absorb all those people who have been thrown out of employment by the introduction and the extension of the system of photography. I know that only a certain proportion of them can be absorbed, but that will not bring about a satisfactory state of affairs. The reasonable thing for the Government to do would be to take steps to see that almost all these people who have been dislodged by the introduction of the photographic system are absorbed by some way or other, if not particularly in the Registration department itself, in some department of Government or other, in view of the fact they have already served Government and did not expect that their fate would be such. If Government bring in things which they did not contemplate at the time their employees were appointed, it is but meet and fair that Government should devise means and measures to absorb every one of those people who have been thrown out of employment.”

* The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—“Sir, very many cut motions have been moved raising points that have already been covered during the last year's Budget discussion. There are, I think, only two points which certainly require my explanation, which, I hope, will make the position clear. I may just deal with the question of delay in the selection of reserve sub-registrars. At the time of selection, the service as a whole consisting of direct recruits and clerks promoted as sub-registrars

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had to be taken into consideration in fixing the communal rotation. In the rules then existing there was no provision for a period of probation when a clerk acts as sub-registrar. This brought about a peculiarly difficult situation as explained below. It frequently happens that a sub-registrar has to be absent from duty on one ground or another often for a very short period at very short notice; but as, under the Indian Registration Act, 1908, a sub-registrar must always be available at every registration office, it becomes necessary to appoint as sub-registrar as a stop-gap arrangement a clerk available on the spot who would not have been selected for such appointment in the usual course. In the special rules governing certain other services there is specific provision for the appointment, as a temporary measure, in such emergencies of persons who would not have been selected for appointment in the usual course and such temporary appointment specifically gives no claim or right of future appointment to the persons so appointed. No such provision was made in the Madras Registration Subordinate Service Rules and in consequence every clerk appointed to do duty as sub-registrar, even as a stop-gap arrangement, had to be deemed to be a person selected for appointment to the Madras Registration Subordinate Service and become entitled to the benefit of the rules.

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“The result was that there was a large number of clerks most of whom would normally not have been selected for appointment to the Madras Registration Subordinate Service, who had become entitled to confirmation in it in the order of their appointment. Apart from the fact that it would be several years before these clerks could be absorbed in the Madras Registration Subordinate Service, their continued employment or re-employment as sub-registrars seriously affected the prospects of directly recruited probationers in the service and also of deserving clerks in the Registration department who had not had the luck to officiate for a few days as sub-registrar in a stop-gap arrangement. In the circumstances the Government felt constrained to amend the rules so that no clerk who had not been appointed a sub-registrar substantively prior to the date of issue of the amendments might have any claim to appointment in virtue of officiating service rendered. The Advocate-General had to be consulted on the advisability of amending the Service rules and also the Madras Services Commission on the draft amendments. The drafting of the amendments and their examination necessarily took some time. The amendments have now been issued—vide G.O. No. 164, Public (Services), dated 21st February 1934. The clerks who were appointed in temporary vacancies have now no claim for confirmation.”

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“Has this Government Order been placed on the table of the House, Sir?”

THE HON. MR. P. T. RAJAN:—“Orders have recently been passed and a copy will be placed on the table of the House in course of time. Now that the Government Order has been passed, the Commission will deal with the selection of persons for reserve sub-registrars. I think there would not be any delay. Persons who merely acted as a stop-gap

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arrangement would not have any claim; because that would cause hardship and there may be deserving cases of clerks in other districts to whom such an opportunity did not occur. That is the reason why the whole question had to be examined. Since the clerks had acted by mere chance, it was decided that they were not entitled to confirmation. In this connexion, Government had fixed 25 per cent of the vacancies to clerks. It used to be 12 per cent. When we found that a thousand and odd clerks had no chance, the percentage was raised from 12 to 25. (A voice: Why not raise it to 50.) If it is raised to 50, I am afraid it will seriously affect the efficiency of the department and direct recruitment will also be affected. I am sure members belonging to minority communities would say their community would have no chance.

“ Then, another question which has been raised by my Friend, Mr. Pocker, refers to photo copying. I would just briefly refer to it. It was after a very careful examination of the question that the system of photo copying was adopted in 1930. In 1924, a committee consisting of the Secretary to Government, Law Department, the Inspector-General of Registration, and the Director of Survey was appointed to go into the question. This committee did not approve of the system chiefly for the following reasons: (1) the prohibitive cost of photographing the documents, namely, five annas ten pies a page exclusive of the cost for the transmission of the document as against As. 3-4½ per page for copying by hand, (2) undue delay in returning the documents to the parties, i.e., seven days as against two days under the ordinary system, (3) the smallness of the size of the photo prints and their possible deterioration through the influence of climate and chemicals and (4) the probable objection by the public as in the case of Bombay.

“ But at the beginning of 1928 the Inspector-General of Registration reported that the photo-copying system was working satisfactorily in Poona and that the old system had been improved, documents being photographed much more quickly and at less cost by the new film process. The Inspector-General applied for permission to visit Poona to see the process for himself. This was granted and on his return the Inspector-General presented certain notes on the process as worked in Poona and also submitted proposals for the introduction of this system into this Presidency as an experimental measure. The Inspector-General considered the system to be more economical and it was advantageous both to the public and the department. The Government however decided that the question of introducing the system in this Presidency might wait for some time more. In July 1929, the Hon. the Minister in charge of Registration—the hon. Mr. Muthia Mudaliyar, who was in charge of the department then—visited the photo-zinco-graphic office at Poona and satisfied himself that the system was working well there. The photograph was taken in almost one second a page and the cost of one side of copy varied from 14 to 18 pies which was much less than the cost of the hand copy. The photo copies were quite distinct and occupied one-fourth space of the originals. If the genuineness of the documents were questioned, enlargements were found easily possible. It may

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also be observed that the unpopularity which the system had at the beginning had almost disappeared with the improvement of the process. It was therefore proposed to introduce the system as an experimental measure in the Madras-Chingleput district from the 1st August 1930. The advantages claimed for the system are mentioned below:—(1) It ensures the absolute accuracy of the copy unlike manuscript copying, which, in spite of the several safeguards of comparing and check, is not free from errors and omissions. (2) It represents a facsimile copy of the original with seal, signature, etc., whatever the language might be. (3) It is a permanent record not liable to fade with the lapse of time according to the quality of the ink used, which is the case with manuscript copying. (4) By having two copies, the negative in the photo office and photo print in the office of Registration, there is a double insurance against accidents by fire, flood and other causes. (5) The storage of future records will occupy much less space than is the case if the present cumbrous registers are continued, notwithstanding the fact that a negative and a photo are kept in two different places. (6) The cost of reproduction of a copy is estimated to be far lower than under the present system and when ultimately mechanical appliances are adopted for all incidental processes, the savings will be even larger. (7) There will be less publicity and less scope for forgery or interpolation. This system is worked by the cine-camera method. In 1931 the system was extended to the Registration offices of Guntur, East Godavari, Salem and Coimbatore. The system has resulted in economy in expenditure, in time, in the staff of copyists and clerks and in stationery and storage space. But a recent examination of the question revealed the fact that the cine-camera system is slow and requires a considerable number of men to work it. The process requires a day for making, developing, and drying 1,000 film negatives, two days for enlarging the film negatives, developing, fixing and drying them, a fourth day for sorting, comparing and sending them to the office of origin. Allowing three days for the transmission of the document to and fro, it takes more than a week for a document to reach back the office of origin after the first presentation. A delay of a week in the return of the documents is thus an inherent factor of the present photo system. The delay is at present even more than a week due to heavy receipt of documents to be copied beyond the capacity of the existing staff. This delay can be reduced only by strengthening the staff. The Inspector-General has, however, proposed the introduction, as an experimental measure, of the system of photo copying of documents by a photostat machine to avoid this delay and also to reduce expenditure. By this machine, a document is photographed directly on a sensitized paper and the photo is quickly developed and fixed in the machine itself. In the cine-film method the negative is first made and enlarged subsequently by the projection on a sensitized paper. The new method is quicker and cheaper. Hence, both are tried side by side, one in the Madras district, and the other in South Malabar. The photostat system has several advantages over the cine-film process and these are broadly the following:

- (1) the delay in the return of documents is minimised;

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- (2) it makes it possible to increase the size of printing; and
 (3) the quality of prints is ensured.

The Government examined the question and thought it desirable to try the experiment. If it proves a success, it would be possible to install similar photostat machines gradually in different districts with the consequent enormous savings in the registration offices. Until it is proved a success, the existing photo-copying system has to be continued alongside it, for perhaps another two years. The Inspector-General's proposal is that this should be done and that the photo-copying system should be extended to one of the registration districts of Malabar, which is at present running at a loss of Rs. 32,000 a year. He calculates that by so doing he should be able to dispense with, gradually before the end of two years, the services of 64 clerks, representing a charge of Rs. 48,028 a year including stationery economies. As the introduction of the proposed photostat system is expected to result eventually in a net saving of Rs. 14,369 a year and as the proposed system promises to prove decidedly more rapid and cheaper in cost than the present film method, its introduction in the district of South Malabar with effect from 1st March 1934 has been sanctioned as a temporary measure. As I said, these two systems are being tried side by side and, if the latter system is found to be cheaper and more economical and more effective, that will be introduced later on in other districts."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"How many years will it take to find it out?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I am told, Sir, according to the expert advice, it would be better to preserve in manuscript copies. Then it has been pointed out that a number of clerks have been thrown out of employment in South Malabar. I am afraid hon. Members seem to be under a misapprehension, because not a single clerk has been sent out on account of the introduction of the photo system. Sixty-four clerks would have gone out if the photo system had proved a success. As I said, we propose to try it for two years and in the meantime we do not send anybody. Even if it proves a success, these 64 men will be absorbed elsewhere. Then, apart from the introduction of the system, 32 clerks had to be sent out from the South Malabar district because they were in excess of the required number and even these men had been absorbed. So, you will find that not a single clerk has been sent out of the service.

"Then coming to the other points raised by hon. Members, my Friend, Mr. Shetty, said that the department was working at a surplus gain of lakh and odd. I am afraid he did not take into consideration the pensionary charges, and interest on capital outlay on buildings, etc. As such, I am afraid it cannot be said that the department is working at a profit.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, referred to the training of document-writers. That matter was referred to the Inspector-General of Registration and he, in consultation with the Inspectors-General of other Provinces, came to the conclusion that such a training would not be a success.

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a.m.

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“ The Members of the Muhammadan community represented that the Muslim element was not to be found in sufficient strength in the Registration department. I may point out to my hon. Friends that, under the communal Government order, the different communities will get their due share in the services, though it will be some time before the different communities get their proper representation. If my hon. Friends could say that the communal Government order is not worked properly, I will look into the matter. But that it is not the case. Hon. Members have admitted that the department and also the Government are trying their level best to give the different communities their due share. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Give up the principle of rotation.) The hon. Gentleman is saying that, instead of applying the communal Government order, the rule of proportion might be applied. If that is done, certainly, more members of the minority communities can be appointed. If the Legislative Council comes to the conclusion that the rule of proportion and not the communal Government order should be observed in the matter of appointments, it will be possible for the Government to examine the question further.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, said that some sub-registry offices are undermanned. Some time ago, in reply to a question on the subject, I pointed out that, at certain periods when there is pressure of work in some of the offices, the practice for the Inspector-General is to relieve the pressure there by transferring men from the neighbouring offices. For want of funds, no other arrangement is considered possible.

“ One other point that I should refer to relates to the appointment of a Muhammadan as the Inspector-General of Registration. If and when this post becomes vacant, I am quite sure the claims of the men in the department will be considered in the first instance and, if there are senior Muhammadan officers available, selection will be made from among them.

“ There was a reference made to the number of sub-registry offices and it was mentioned that some offices have been abolished as a measure of retrenchment. I must here point out to hon. Members that not a single office has been abolished.

“ Reference was made to the need for reducing the fees charged for attendance of sub-registrars at private residences. This question was dealt with at length last year. No new arguments have been advanced in support of the plea for reducing the fees on this account.

“ Then, Sir, coming to the doubt expressed by Mr. Pocker about the courts refusing to accept as evidence records made under the photocopying system, I may say, Sir, that so far we have not heard of such refusal at all. Hereafter also I do not think there is any likelihood of any objection being made on that score. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Selection of sub-registrars.) I have already dealt with this matter. As there was a doubt about the legality of the thing, the Advocate-General was consulted and the Government decided that those clerks

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who had acted for a day or two could not claim the right for confirmation. However, their interests were safeguarded by allotting 25 per cent of the vacancies to them and the rest 75 per cent for direct recruitment. This consultation and the consideration of the question took time and we have now asked the Services Commission for their recommendation on this basis. I think the list will very soon be in the hands of the Inspector-General who will make the appointments. This will be done in a month or so."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND VI—IRRIGATION (EXCLUDING CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT)—
RESERVED.

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—
'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 94,01,900 under Irrigation (excluding Cauvery-Mettur Project)—Reserved.'"

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In connexion with the discussion of the cut motions under this Demand, a large number of Hon. Members are anxious to speak. I therefore suggest that Hon. Members who get an opportunity to speak will try to accommodate the succeeding Members."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, irrigation is an important matter in which every Member would like to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties that exist in his own district and the steps that should be taken early to remedy the same.

"Sir, to start with, I want to mention the irrigation requirements of the part of the Province from which I come. In doing so, I should first of all like to know the reason for the delay in starting work on the Lower Bhavani Project. Sir, this question has been hanging on for something like 70 years. I believe it was about the year 1860 that the scheme was originally investigated. Since then the matter has been under consideration. Luckily or unluckily, the Upper Bhavani Project was given up and there was a chance for the Lower Bhavani Project and it was taken up some years ago. The Government decided that it was a useful scheme and came to the Council for its approval. If I remember right, a token motion was moved in this Council for this purpose and the assent of the House was obtained. This was about two years ago. At this stage the Hon. Member for Irrigation thought that some legislation was necessary with reference to this before the work could be taken up. I suppose he felt nervous on account of his experience with regard to the Mettur Project. A Bill for the purpose was brought in and it was passed into an Act and, even after the coming into force of this Act, the work has not been started. We were under the impression that the work will be started very soon. It was specially

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mentioned by both the Hon. Member for Irrigation and by the Members of this Council that before the Cauvery-Mettur Project was completed this scheme might be sanctioned and work commenced so that the machinery and the skilled labour available at Mettur might be utilized for this. We were hoping, Sir, that in the interests of economy as well as in the interests of efficient working, the scheme will be ready before the Cauvery-Mettur Project was finished. But now we find that, although the Mettur Project is about to be wound up and the establishment employed on it is about to be disbanded, nothing has been done to start the Lower Bhavani Project. I want the Government to consider this aspect of the question once again and see that no delay takes place in sanctioning the scheme. Sir, some of the reports that appeared in the papers regarding this scheme were rather disquieting. It was said that the Irrigation Development Board had some difficulty in going forward with the scheme from the stage which it has reached, and that further investigations are going to be made. We are in the dark as to what exactly the difficulties are and what the Government wants. Sir, when the Upper Bhavani Project was investigated, several questions were raised with reference to the loss of water by evaporation and percolation in the channels and the arrangement of the different sluices. It was said at that time that sufficient data was not available with reference to these matters and with reference to the quantity of water that would ultimately be available for the ryots. That scheme was therefore dropped.

11-45
a.m.

“Now with regard to the Lower Bhavani Project, I think we have had several difficulties in its way and we have been able to surmount them, and so we expected that the scheme would be pursued without any further delay. But from what we learn from the newspapers, it appears the matter has been held up. Now with regard to the hesitation of the Government in this matter, I wish to tell them this. In matters like this it is necessary that we should take some sort of risk; otherwise it would not be possible for us to carry out any scheme whatsoever. It may be that we shall have to learn by experience in the first two or three schemes, as we are starting such schemes for giving water for dry crops for the first time. Unless we make a start in this way, it is, I fear, impossible for us to carry out any scheme in the future. As a matter of fact we have ready at hand the necessary data, and the calculations with reference to evaporation and percolation are also complete, and it is only with reference to the channels and other minor details that the scheme is not complete. The plan to avoid the difficulty of simultaneously allowing water to all the lands is also ready. And so I would ask the Hon. Revenue Member whether, with these facts and figures supplied by his technical advisers and with the help of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation who carried out the estimates of the scheme and with the guidance of the present Chief Engineer, he cannot carry out the scheme without any further delay. I may also tell him this, that if there is no chance of this scheme being pushed through

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now, I don't think there is any prospect of this being taken up at least for several years to come.

“ Another thing that seems to be giving trouble with regard to this scheme, and apparently because of which, the scheme is not to be put into execution is this. With reference to the distribution of water and things allied to that, I may say that we need not wait until all the channels, even for blocks of ten and twelve acres, are aligned. It is enough if as hitherto we have the alignment and detailed estimates of the main channels. Otherwise we will have to wait too long, and not only that, it may be, the estimates may not be quite accurately prepared with regard to these details or it may be, that these minor things may have to be altered in the light of actual working of the scheme, and thus these estimates may not be of much use.

“ Then again with reference to the permits that are to be given to the actual cultivators, in those permits, the ryots are sought to be told within what distance they can get water supplied to them. I don't think any cultivator needs this information correctly. All that he wants is an uninterrupted supply of water to his lands. It may be that in some cases the distance from the sluice is 100 feet, in some others it may be 200 feet and in some others still it may be only 50 feet. So if Government are going to prepare estimates after examining all these details and then start the scheme, I fear we shall have to wait and wait for several years to come.

“ I hope, for these reasons, Government will not delay the execution of this scheme any longer but hasten to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State and push through the scheme so as to be able to start in the course of the next financial year. I hope the Hon. Revenue Member will see that all the preliminary work done in this behalf is not allowed to run to waste by postponing the scheme, but will be able to turn the first sod before he lays down his office as Irrigation Member.

“ The next question about which we have on the floor of this House spoken at length several times is about the supply of water from the Siruvani channel. Sir, as it is, the wet ayacut under the Noyyal river does not get an assured supply. There is water available under the Siruvani scheme for the cultivation of 3,000 acres. I have been consulting the ryots of the area and the owners of land commanded by the Noyyal are willing even to pay Re. 1 extra, if necessary, for the purpose of getting an assured water-supply to their lands. I believe, Sir, several mahazars have been received by the Government to this effect. I hope they would favourably consider the proposal.

“ There is one other matter to which I should like to refer before I resume my seat. On previous occasions I have told Government that we have nearly reached the end of our productive schemes with regard to irrigation. If at all there remain any schemes, I fear, they are only small schemes. Such being the case, I have suggested to the Government in this Council, that in all these schemes they should pool together

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the resources of irrigation and then only determine whether they are remunerative or not. That is to say, Government should take into consideration the whole outturn from all the irrigation works, and they should not decide the matter piecemeal. Some small schemes are very beneficial to the people, and in many of them the ryots themselves are willing to contribute the outlay in case they will be allowed concession rates. So in the absence of any big schemes in this Province the only alternative on which the people can fall on are the small works and so I urge on Government the necessity for carrying out such works on the principle I have suggested.

"No doubt, Sir, there are several tanks throughout the Province, which irrigate generally from 40 to 100 acres of land. The tank restoration parties were doing some work and even those parties have been abolished. In some cases the people of the locality are willing to contribute a portion of the cost, but in some others, on account of poverty they are not able to meet any expenditure.

"Further, Sir, I would submit this point to the consideration of the Government. As I said a few minutes back we are now at the end of our big schemes; and these big schemes cater only to the needs of a few districts. Now may I ask Government, should the other districts go by default simply because they have no big schemes? So, I would ask Government to pool together all the irrigation resources and put into execution several small schemes in districts which cannot boast of any big schemes.

"Sir, I shall not take up the time of the House any more, but I shall conclude with these words. I wish the Hon. Irrigation Member gives a proper turn to the irrigation policy of the Government before he lays down his office. I should say he has been responsive to our representations and helping us as much as he can, despite the trammels put by the department of Finance. (Laughter.) Anyhow we are much indebted to them both, and as this is the last occasion perhaps when we may have him here at the time of the budget, I should like to take this opportunity of conveying to him the gratitude of the people for the help he has rendered them in irrigation matters.

"With these words, I move my cut motion, viz.—

'that the allotment of Rs. 94,01,900 under Demand VI—Irrigation (Excluding Cauvery-Mettur Project)—Reserved be reduced by Rs. 100.'

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noon

* MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Sir, Government are starting every year some new irrigation schemes. I do not know what principle or policy is involved in Government starting new irrigation schemes without considering about the schemes they have already started. The price of paddy cultivated under each irrigation scheme was very much lowered and we are not in a position to get a marketable price for paddy. There is no use of cultivating more paddy. So I request the Hon. Member to carefully consider over the matter if the Government are going

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to start any new irrigation schemes. If they start such schemes, they may prohibit the cultivation of paddy and introduce any other crop which will be suitable to the place and which will also be more beneficial and improve the condition of the people. In the interests of the Government also, it is desirable if they reduce paddy growing further so that they may not go on granting remissions for eternity. Therefore, I suggest to the Government that they may take notice of this remark and start some other crop in the place of paddy in places where they are going to start new irrigation schemes.

“About water-tax,—Government have already increased the water-tax in Repalle and several other taluks by raising it to Rs. 6-4-0, while the ryots were paying Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 previously as will be seen from the settlement report. We can also see from that report that the increase made by Government is 100 per cent and 50 per cent. When I put an interpellation some time back asking for information as to the total value of such excessive water-rates, the Government said that they would call for such information. I do not know whether they called for it. I request the Hon. Member to give me an idea as to the excess water-rate which is paid by each taluk.

“There are several drainage schemes which have not yet been taken up in Guntur district, though in 1902 at the time of resettlement, they enhanced the rate of land revenue with the idea of increasing drainage facilities. To one of my questions the Hon. Member said that there was no such understanding. Now I have got a settlement register and I will give that information for the Hon. Member. In three or four places of that report the Settlement Officer has reported that, before the Government thought of introducing increased rates, they must recognize the fact that there is scope for increasing drainage facilities. This is what he says—

‘At all events if the proposals are accepted, I am convinced that the ryots will not be able to bear the increased rates. It is impossible to overestimate the advantages of having an assured crop.’

In another place he says—

‘I beg to submit that in cases the Government approves the increase which I have proposed in wet assessment every facility in the way of funds may be given so that these improvements may be carried out as early as possible.’

“In another portion of the settlement register he has clearly discussed the usefulness of drainage schemes, but I do not want to take up much of the time of the House by going into those details now. I only request the Government to consider the promise that they made about 30 years ago. Now the Government are considering the promise that they have made a year or two ago leaving the promise to the winds which they made some 30 years back. Probably they think there should be a limitation bar to the promise they made 30 years back. If that is their case, I cannot argue the point further. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to see the settlement report and provide for the drainage schemes immediately without proceeding further with new projects.

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“Last year I brought to the notice of the Government about the spring channels in Bapatla taluk. I have now to thank the Government that at least, after consultation with the Collector, they have come to the right conclusion and have seen their way to remove the tax. I must also thank Mr. G. W. Priestley who was then the Collector who investigated the matter carefully and reported it for the consideration of the Government. Though the Government objected to his proposal once and rejected it, still he maintained his position and made a further representation to the Government. The Government considered the justice of the whole case and yielded to his representation. I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Priestley and the Government for doing this act, though it is legitimate.

“About Irrigation Advisory Boards, every year there is a conference of this board but nothing has been done practically. I happened to be the president of this board, and I know from personal knowledge that this board has become a regular blackboard. The officers of the Irrigation department do not care for the president or the members. They do not ask for any advice. They pass their own orders without consulting the Irrigation Advisory Board. I do not know the reason why the Government should constitute such an irrigation board if the officers of the department are not going to take any advice from this board. I have also mentioned the same thing in my annual report. I do not know what orders the Government have passed on the same. I have not received any communication from the Government about the same. Instead of having such blackboards, we can as well break them and relieve the people of the trouble of going and attending the conference and all that. We can leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Executive Engineers instead of nominating some non-officials to the board who if they put some inconvenient questions to the officers of the department regarding any matter will be dropped from the board, so that the officers might have a smooth sailing. So I request the Government that, if they want to constitute any such board, they must ask the district boards to elect their representatives to this board. Most of the district board members are now coming from several places to the district board. If the Government ask the district board members to elect the number of members required for this Irrigation Board from among themselves, such a board will be fully representative also. Now the Legislative Council is electing two representatives to the Railway Advisory Committee. The district board consists of many elected representatives from the agriculturist classes. If the district board is asked to elect one or two members to this Irrigation Board, it would be more desirable than entrusting the matter in the hands of the officials.

“Then as regards irrigation panchayats in Kistna Western Delta, though the Government have started this experiment some time back and it has been in force for the last two years, I am afraid nothing has been done. I put some questions to the Hon. the Revenue Member and he replied that the matter was entirely in the hands of the District Collector. I requested the Hon. the Revenue Member to ask the District

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Collector to try the experiment in one or two places and, if it proved successful, it might be extended to other places. Nothing has been done so far.

“Then as regards tenders, the Local Self-Government Department is insisting upon the non-official presidents of taluk boards and district boards, to accept the lowest tender. But this condition is not insisted upon in the case of Government officers. They use their discretion. I do not know how they are entitled to use their discretion. When the non-official is compelled to accept the lowest tender, I do not see any justification for the Government officers alone being allowed to accept a higher tender. The Government may give some reason or another and say that a particular man is not in a position to execute the work and so on. Although the Government may prepare a register of contractors and stipulate that the Executive Engineer must accept the lowest tender, still he exercises his own discretion and accepts a higher tender. If the Government are not aware of such things, I can give them several instances where they have not accepted the lowest tender.

“Next, about the administration of the Irrigation department I want to say one or two words. When Mr. J. Venkatanarayana was the Inspector-General of Registration, the Registration department was very efficiently managed, and there was no corruption there or anything of that kind. We have not such good officers in the Irrigation department. Irrigation department is one of the worst departments for corruption. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to take note of this fact and do something to remedy the situation. If the Hon. Member is prepared to hold an enquiry, there are people who are prepared to let in evidence. But if the Government are not prepared to take drastic measures but simply shelve the case, nobody will be prepared to come out boldly and give evidence lest they should be harassed by their superiors. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to enquire into the matter. I can give a concrete example. In a certain place the people did not pay the mamul of Rs. 400 and the department did not give water to the villagers. So also the water we have in the fields is not allowed to go into the canal. So much so, the crop of the ryot has suffered very much. There are very many practical difficulties and, if the head of department takes some active steps, I think this corruption can be put down. I do not blame lower people. Even the officers are not above such things.

“About the irrigation conference which they are conducting annually in each place, it is becoming a regular farce. Several people come from different taluks to represent their grievances. The Executive Engineer is presiding over such conferences. A number of subordinate officers are also present in that conference. If the ryots or their representatives put forward certain proposals, these officers at once say ‘you can legislate for such things provided you have money.’ Sir, if there is no money for carrying out our objects, why should we hold such conferences at all? Let not the Government hold such a conference at all and it will be a saving to the Government, because they need not pay travelling allowances to their officers who attend such a conference.

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“ I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to consider the various points that I have brought to his notice. About the drainage system in Guntur, though the Settlement report contains certain recommendations, nothing has been done by the Government. If the Hon. the Revenue Member wants any enlightenment on this point or wants to refer to the Settlement report, I am prepared to give him the report which I have got in my hand, so that he may be able to give me a suitable reply when replying to my remarks.”

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am going to speak on the general policy with regard to irrigation and not upon any individual matter though in the end I may talk about Cooum river. Sir, about 13 millions of acres of land that can be cultivated are lying without cultivation. At the same time we have got waters in our rivers flowing into the sea year after year without any use. So long ago as 1859, i.e., about 75 years ago, Col. A. T. Cotton of the Madras Engineers has in his reports on certain projects, stated as follows :

‘ On the regulation of the waters of a country, and especially of a tropical country, depends incomparably more than upon anything else, the material state of that country. That is, that money, skill and labour expended in regulating its waters, will produce incomparably greater results than any other way of applying those things.’ (Pages 34-35.)

His view is that the rivers and canals of this country should be connected with one another—river to river and canal to canal—so that there may be a network of canals. By this means, we will be able to increase the produce of the lands and also bring uncultivated lands under cultivation by irrigating them with the water thus made available. Not only that, the network of rivers and canals can be used as a means of communication for carrying the produce of the land from place to place at rates which will be much cheaper than any that can be got at present. Again, Sir, it has been found by experts that our rivers have silted up with the result that although we are having the same amount of rain we were having some years ago, floods in our rivers have now become almost a normal feature. Our rivers are not as deep as they were and our engineering experts will have to find some means of removing the silt, so that the waters in our rivers, instead of inundating the surrounding parts, may be used for irrigation purposes. One of the ways of preventing floods is to construct more canals so that the waters of rivers may be diverted. Moreover, Sir, the digging of more canals will give employment to our labour and they will not be put to the necessity of migrating to other countries to waste their energies there for a lifetime in many cases for generations to be repatriated at the end to our country to face unemployment here. When more land is brought under cultivation in this way, there will be employment not only for our labourers but also for the many agricultural graduates and diploma-holders. Thus the improvement of our agricultural lands will be a means of relieving unemployment. In other countries they give seeds and other equipments to the unemployed so that they can get employment by cultivating the land. We should also do something in that direction.

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p.m.

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“ With regard to the Tungabhadra Project, I want to ask the Hon. the Revenue Member whether the Government are going to take it up in the near future. I understand that the discussion with His Exalted Highness the Nizam has come to a close and I want to know whether the Government are going to take up the work immediately. The project is estimated to irrigate 1,500,000 acres of first crop and 400,000 acres of second-crop lands. I want to ask whether the Government are going to take up this project and relieve unemployment and increase the produce of the land.

“ Various other schemes also have been mentioned by Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar. I hope they will all be taken up. Sir, within 25 miles from Madras there are two rivers—Courtalliar and Aranyanathi. We find that the waters of these two rivers waste themselves into the sea year after year. They must be conserved in reservoirs and controlled by diverting them into canals and utilized for the benefit of the people. Of course a small portion of the waters of Courtalliar is being utilized by the Madras Corporation in storage in Red Hills lake, and a large quantity is being wasted. If what the engineer said 75 years ago has been followed all these years, this could have been avoided and our lands would be producing much more than they do at present.

“ Coming to our Coom, I am glad that the Government, most probably in the Local Self-Government or the Irrigation department, are taking some interest in our Coom. On account of its being flushed, we get much less smell than we used to. But I would request the Hon. the Revenue Member to see that the silt is removed—the silt is marketable—the river will be made deeper and more navigable.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ Any irrigation under the Coom? ”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“ If the Tungabhadra Project is completed and if our Coom is connected with the Tungabhadra system, I can assure him that our Coom will be irrigating vast fields. But what I request the Hon. Member to look to is not to keep the Coom in that miserable state. The banks of the river are not in the possession of the Corporation; they are in the possession of the Government. There are many excavations on the banks and water stagnates in the pits. Mosquitoes breed and malaria is the result. The people of the city have to suffer. Therefore I request the Government not to allow the city to suffer by their neglect. The Government will do well to hand over the banks of the Coom and Buckingham canal to the Corporation. At present, they will not themselves do anything, nor will they allow the Corporation to do anything. That is not proper. These are the few requests I have to make to the Government.”

* Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move the ‘ cut ’ motion standing in my name.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ The hon. Member need not move his cut motion now, because it does not arise at present. He may

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speak on the general policy of the department as other hon. Members have done till now. After this motion is disposed of, if there is time, he may move his cut motion. For the present he can speak only on this motion."

* Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—" Mr. President, Sir, I wanted to speak on the inadequacy of the provision made in the budget particularly for minor irrigation works. From page 11 of Appendix F to the Civil Budget Estimates, I find that the provision made for minor irrigation is over Rs. 15 lakhs for 1934-35, of which maintenance and repairs get Rs. 12 lakhs and works only Rs. 20,000. The districts which I represent in the Council are mostly dependent on minor irrigation for the cultivation of wet crops. It is needless for me to point out how irrigation is of paramount importance to the ryot. It is important not only to the ryot for the purposes of his cultivation, it is also important to the Government to realize the large amount of land revenue under Demand I. The major portion of the land revenue of Rs. 745 lakhs comes from wet lands which depend for their cultivation upon the proper maintenance, improvement and repair of irrigation works. In this connexion, minor irrigation works play no less important part than those of major irrigation.

" From the administration reports of the Public Works Department one finds that the area under irrigation has been somehow or other gradually decreasing. There seems to be a steady fall in this matter. From paragraph 98 of the administration report of the Public Works Department for 1931-32, we find that the area irrigated is 3,242,000 acres for 1931-32 against 3,395,000 acres during 1930-31. The average of the triennium ending 1930-31 was 3,269,000 acres. While the outlay on the works has been growing every year, the revenue realized has been declining. It is a matter of no small concern therefore not only to the Government but also to the ryot to see that the irrigation sources are maintained and improved. Not only that, steps should be taken to resuscitate some of the irrigation works which were once functioning efficiently but are now out of use.

" Coming nearer home, of the districts which I represent on the Council two—North Arcot and Chingleput—are badly hit on account of the cessation of the floods in the Palar. I remember that about 25 years ago there were floods in the Palar, but ever since the construction and consolidation of the Betamangalam tank in the Mysore territory, the floods in the Palar have ceased. Irrigation in the North Arcot district with which I have intimate knowledge is dependent entirely upon tanks and spring channels in rivers. The tanks are either river-fed or rain-fed. It is unnecessary for me to say that the river-fed tanks are more reliable than rain-fed tanks. The system of tanks is so beautifully arranged in the district that they form a continuous chain, the tank situated on the higher level receiving its supply and surplusing into a tank on the lower level. To fill these tanks therefore, freshes are absolutely necessary in the river. When the river is in floods, the head

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sluices are opened out and the first tank receives its supply. When it is filled, it overflows, and the surplus water is allowed to flow into another tank lower down. In this way all the tanks in the district are filled. There are three river systems in the North Arcot district: the Palar, Poiney and Cheyyar anicut systems. I find that the Poiney and Cheyyar anicut systems are classed as productive works whereas the Palar system has been taken away from the productive class and put down under non-productive sources. Whatever that may be, looking into the Budget, I find that no provision has been made for any improvement to the Palar system. About four years ago, I understand that a committee was formed to go into the question of Palar irrigation. But for some reason or other, we find that correspondence is still going on between Madras and Mysore Governments and in answer to a question, the Government told us the other day that the Mysore Government have undertaken to supply some information with regard to the cost that will be involved in finding out whether the supply in the Palar is insufficient or whether it receives the same amount of water as before. I would request the Government not to lose further time to put Palar on its original basis.

“ I find from the land revenue report for fasli 1341, i.e., 1931–32, that there has been no decrease in the matter of wet assessment.

“ For the information of the House I shall quote from page 29 of the Settlement report of fasli 1341. The wet assessment of fasli 1340 was Rs. 17 lakhs; while for fasli 1341 it has slightly increased to Rs. 17.70 lakhs. In the area under wet cultivation also there has been a corresponding increase. I find that the area cultivated in fasli 1340 is 11 lakhs of acres; in fasli 1341 it was 1,139,000 acres. One is tempted to ask how, when the Palar river has not been functioning properly as complained by some hon. Members on the floor of this House or by the public, there has been rise in the area under wet cultivation as also in the revenue derived from that area. This circumstance is due to the fact that the ryots who have been deprived of the benefit of the Palar freshes have taken to well irrigation in the district to such a large extent as to push up the number of wells in the district to more than half a lakh. The number of wells in actual use according to the published report I have already referred to is 51,578. We find that North Arcot district stands easily first in the Presidency in the matter of well irrigation. The district that comes after the North Arcot district is South Arcot with only 28,000 wells. These 51,000 wells in the North Arcot district supplement the irrigation in North Arcot district for which the Government hold themselves responsible. This well irrigation largely supplements the irrigation from tanks or river channels. The mere fact that there has been no fall in the area under cultivation and in the revenue derived from such cultivation should not, I respectfully submit, make the Government forget that it is very necessary that immediate attention should be paid at a very early date for the resuscitation of the Palar river.

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“ There is one point which I would like to bring very prominently to the notice of the House. The Palar is generally dry; it is not a living river; it is absolutely dry for several months in the year. Below the surface however there is fine spring of water which supplies a very large portion of wet irrigation of the North Arcot district. These springs are called kasam channels. When freshes in the river are frequent and adequate, it is easy for the ryots to dig up the sand a little and touch water, about 3 feet or 2 feet or even 1 foot below the surface of the river. A copious and steady supply of water, used to be found in the Palar during the days when freshes were frequent and adequate. Now circumstances have changed and people have to go down 10, 15, 20 and even 25 feet from the surface to touch water. The subsoil supply of water has been rapidly decreasing; it has been causing no little concern to the ryots holding lands under the Palar irrigation. If the kasam channels or spring channels are maintained so as to function properly, the ryots would be able to obtain water at very little depths. For this purpose it is absolutely necessary that freshes in the Palar should be absolutely assured. There is no doubt, Sir, that the construction and consolidation of irrigation sources in the Mysore Territory has affected the Palar river directly. The Mysore Government may say that it was not due to their action, that they are not denying the Palar basin more water than what was previously let down, by diversions for their own irrigation sources. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it. We know as a matter of fact that freshes have ceased; they are very few and far between. I knew that the highest freshes were in the year 1909; for the past 25 years or so we have not experienced such freshes in the Palar river. Consequently the spring channels in the river have become affected, and the system of well irrigation is also being gradually affected. If there are freshes in the river, the subsoil springs get enough supply. When there are no freshes, and no water standing on the surface of the river, the subsoil water goes down considerably. I have known cases of wells which have dried up merely for want of freshes in the Palar. I find that, in the Budget, provision has been made for maintenance and repair. I wish to refer the House to the detailed estimates given in Appendix F of the Budget Estimate at pages 26 and 27 and 29. At page 26 we find a provision for extensions and improvements to the Cheyyar Anicut system. The provision made for this purpose is only Rs. 200. The provision made for extensions and improvements to the Palar anicut system is Rs. 2,500. For maintenance and repairs no doubt adequate provision has been made. I must admit with thankfulness to Government that the Government have made adequate provision for the purpose of maintenance. But my contention is that maintenance alone in the present circumstances, would not meet the requirements of the ryots. Greater provision has to be made for extensions and improvements. The questions how best the usual supply which the district was getting from the Palar basin can be assured as in former years, and how best the Palar head sluices system can be resuscitated, have to be very carefully considered by the Irrigation officers. It is stated at page 9 of the

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report of the Public Works department that a division was constituted in another district mainly for framing of proposals and preparation of estimates for the following items of work:—

- (1) Remodelling of sluices so as to suit the conditions obtaining now; (2) provision of direct sources of supply for irrigated lands; (3) investigation of those channels which are at present unable to carry sufficient water to irrigate their ayacut and to remodel them so as to enable them to carry their required discharge; and (4) investigation of the discharges passing through regulators to ascertain if the discharges are proportionate to the ayacuts and, if not, to suggest alteration in the rules of regulation to remedy this defect.

“ These are the lines, I respectfully submit, on which the Government should make enquiries in the matter of the Palar river. If I may recall to the mind of this hon. House a bit of history, there is the town of Arcot directly overlooking the river Palar situated on its right bank. It was here that the famous siege of Arcot took place. Clive gallantly held the fort with a handful of soldiers until relief came from Trichinopoly. The history shows that, when there was scarcity of rations, the Indian soldiers said; ‘ We do not want rice; it may be given to our British comrades; we will be satisfied with the gruel.’ It was here that Clive laid the foundation of the Indian Empire. May I ask that that district which contributed to the foundation of the Indian Empire should not be starved? There is a serious apprehension that the subsoil source is fast receding and that it may not respond as readily as it has been responding in the past. If that danger is to be averted, it is quite necessary that an enquiry should be held, as I have suggested above. Such a scheme would certainly benefit the ryots and the ryots would indeed be very grateful to the Government.

“ There is one other point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government before I sit down. The Irrigation department has not taken to account the number of artesian springs and wells dug by the Industries department in connexion with its boring operations. An appreciable amount of work has been done by the Industries department in that direction, providing the ryots in dry areas or in places where they are less fortunate in getting sufficient water. The Industries department has been supplementing in its own way the small sources of water-supply by means of its boring operations and boring wells. Probably it will be within the knowledge of this House that no less than 42 artesian springs have been brought into existence by the Industries department. There are 29 artesian springs in the South Arcot district, 2 springs in Bezwada, 10 in East Godavari and 2 in the Vizagapatam district. I bring this point to the notice of this House, with a view to impress upon the Government the necessity of conserving the supply from these artesian springs. I find that in most cases there is a perennial supply of water brought up from the bowels of the earth. But unfortunately all that supply is not utilized for the

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purpose of cultivation. The cultivation season lasts for two or three months in the year. Water that flows without any effort is not properly utilized and in several cases it is allowed to run to waste without benefiting anybody. This information about these springs is given in a small book compiled by the Industries department. I know of an artesian spring which was tapped by a karnam; after feeding the karnam's fields, the surplus water from that spring fills the tank of the village and then flowing through a *punta*, it falls into the Kollair lake.

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"There are numerous instances of that kind where water unnecessarily runs to waste through dry water-courses without any use being found for it. I hope that the Irrigation department will kindly make a note of the artesian springs that have been found in various parts of the Presidency and see how far the perennial supply from such springs could be conserved not only for the benefit of the owner of the land where such springs have been found, but also for the owners of lands in the neighbourhood. After all, Sir, it may not be difficult for the Irrigation department to enter into some sort of contract with the owners of such springs—there are springs which give more than a thousand gallons of water per minute—in order to make those springs useful to the owners and to the others in the neighbourhood.

"With these remarks, Sir, I would commend once more the dry districts of Chingleput, Chittoor and North Arcot, which I have the good fortune to represent in this Council, to the sympathetic consideration of the Government in the matter of irrigation facilities."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry to note that my district has come in for a large share in the abandonment by the Government of irrigation schemes which would contribute to the prosperity of the people. The Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee recommended a number of schemes to be taken up by the Government for the benefit of Cuddapah district but the Government have not been kind enough to take up any of them. Their usual remark is that the scheme is not remunerative. The latest that they have rejected is the Kanchalamma tank project; another was rejected earlier, the Velligallu project; also the Pullampet project which would have benefited a portion of Rajampet taluk. I hope, Sir, the Government will revise their views on these projects. I would also impress upon the Government the necessity for revising their whole irrigation policy. The Government generally take too individualistic a view in these matters; they ought to take a broader and wiser view of the necessities of the country as a whole. The irrigation schemes cannot be placed on a par with the railway projects or electric schemes. Whereas such schemes contribute only to the comfort of the people, the irrigation schemes contribute to the production of wealth in the country and thereby increase the prosperity of the people. The view that the Government should take in regard to these schemes is not whether from the point of revenue it gets, they are remunerative or not but whether there will not be sufficient increase in the value of the produce that will result from

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carrying out any scheme that will compensate for the expenditure involved. It may be said, Sir, 'What does it matter if the increased value of the produce is not less than the interest on the capital and maintenance charges, if the Government are not going to get a return for the capital invested? Apart from that, it may be said that if there is going to be increased wealth, a portion of the additional wealth will go to the Government of India in the shape of income-tax.' What I say is—and I am sorry to find that the Hon. the Finance Member is not here now—it is for the Hon. the Revenue Member to go ahead with these schemes, if only they are not likely to involve the country in any loss and it is for the Hon. the Finance Member to tap such increased sources and make them yield revenue to the Government. By adopting, as I said, the broad view, viz., that all such schemes should be carried out wherever they are likely to yield increased produce whose value is not less than the interest on capital and maintenance charges, you will certainly contribute to the prosperity of the people without any loss to the country. Supposing there is an irrigation scheme on which you spend Rs. 1,00,000; and supposing at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, the interest works up to Rs. 4,000; and that the cost of maintenance, i.e., salaries and repair comes to Rs. 2,000. What I say is, so long as the Government does not get Rs. 6,000 as revenue it may be considered a loss from the Government's point of view, but it need not necessarily be so from the point of view of the country. For, if you compare the amount of produce before the scheme with that after the scheme, and if after deducting the cost of increased labour, Rs. 10,000, it will be found that the country has become richer by not less than Rs. 4,000, the increased value of the produce being Rs. 10,000. That is why I say that the question should be decided not on the ground whether a scheme is remunerative or unremunerative, from the point of view of Government's revenue, but whether it is likely to add to the wealth of the country without involving the country in any loss. As I said, the Finance Member will be in a position to tap this additional source of increased wealth in the country for its revenue. I hope, Sir, that the Government will consider this point of view—it is quite reasonable and sound—and revise their decisions on the schemes that they have already abandoned. I may say that every country has given up taking such a narrow view of the functions of Government. Even the Irrigation Commission of 1901-03, in paragraph 94 at page 27 of their report say:—

'But when the increase in the value of produce due to irrigation has been determined, it must be compared not with the capital cost of the work but with the actual net charge for repairs and maintenance which it imposed upon the State.'

"So, they took into consideration the increased value of the produce due to the irrigation schemes. It is often said—and it is quoted in many of the text-books on Irrigation—in British India and it is also considered to be one of the benefits of British rule in India—that the actual value of the yearly produce as a result of irrigation

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schemes is generally equal to the value of the irrigation schemes. In that case, I ask, where is the necessity for the Government to give up a number of schemes as unproductive?

“The great Tungabhadra project which has been promised for a pretty long time now in this Council for the benefit of the Ceded Districts has not yet been started; I do not know what its present fate is. Originally, Nellore was given up as a result of the recommendation of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee; they thought that Nellore would be much better benefited by another project, viz., the Sangameswaram project. Cuddapah and a portion of Anantapur were understood to be given up later on when Hyderabad came in; I do not know whether any other district or portion of a district has been given up now that Mysore also seems to be in the field. Sir, the present times are very opportune for starting such schemes. Capital can be had at a low rate of interest and labour and material are pretty cheap. If only the Government make up their mind, this is just the time for taking up not only the Tungabhadra project but also other schemes at once. In this connexion, I must say that Government ought not to spend on such schemes, whether big or small, from out of the revenues of the Province; they must always be ready to spend on them from out of capital account, because, as I said, most of these schemes are expected to pay in the long run.

“As regards minor irrigation schemes, I am sorry that Government do not show the same consideration for them as for the bigger schemes. Whatever may be the benefits of the bigger schemes to the country at large—and they are of course many—they cannot be expected to benefit the whole of the territory. The poor ryot mostly depends upon the small irrigation works and I hope that Government will allot more money for such schemes. No doubt about Rs. 10 lakhs are now spent on minor schemes; but I say that more money should be spent. There are a large number of tanks which were dug some fifty or a hundred years ago which once were useful but which are now breached. Those tanks require to be reconstructed. There is no reason why we should not take up small schemes at least in places which are not benefited by the bigger schemes.

“I do not want to take up more time; but I want to refer to the question of water-rates. Even in that respect, the Government are adopting a very narrow policy. I hope when that question is raised under another Demand later on, I will be given another opportunity to put forward my views. The Irrigation Committee recommended that in the case of the famine-affected areas, the Government should see that many schemes were taken up immediately. One of those schemes, Sir, was the Tungabhadra project. I trust the Government won't delay the matter any further. I hope also they won't consider this project unproductive. If they think so, it should be due to other reasons. For instance, the high salaries which the Government

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pay to their officials and secondly—my Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, has already referred to it—the system of mamuls in the case of the subordinate staff—the high cost of repairs or some such thing—are responsible even from the narrow point of view of the Government to make the projects unproductive. If the expenditure on maintenance and repairs is kept down and if stricter supervision is exercised over the salaries of the officials, I am sure the estimated cost of the scheme will come down and prove remunerative. In the case of the departments of electricity and railways, the larger interests of the country demand that they should be run on purely commercial lines, making profit, wherever possible, for the benefit of the general tax-payer. But in the case of irrigation schemes, the Government should take a broader view. The salaries of most of the officials could be reduced to a one-third or at least half of the present rates. If that is done, I am sure the charges to be incurred on the maintenance of these schemes will be very low. From that point of view, I again urge upon the Government the necessity of lowering the salaries of officials and of exercising a stricter supervision in regard to the contracts. I hope that the Government will see that instructions are issued to the Public Works department only to accept the lowest tenders. The other day I was speaking to the President of the District Board of Kurnool, Mr. B. P. Sessa Reddi, and he told me that by adopting the policy of accepting the lowest tenders, he was able to save about Rs. 38,000 in one year in his district board. Considering that the Government are spending vast sums every year, a large amount of money will be saved if this principle were adopted in the Public Works department also. The Government should see to it that under no circumstances should the lowest tender be rejected. If there is to be any exception to this rule, the Government should permit this being done in each individual case found necessary.

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“ I was referring to the existence of corruption among the lower ranks—mamuls in the shape of a percentage of the contract amount and such like things. Even in the higher ranks, I venture to think there is a lot which requires correction and one way of doing it will be to insist on the acceptance of the lowest tender.

“ Sir, I fear I have taken much time. I shall close with a passing reference to the abandonment of the Kanchalamma Tank Restoration Scheme. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been estimated for removing prickly-pear. This amount looks too much, in fact there does not seem to be any necessity for it now. Another amount of Rs. 25,000, the Government say, is required for compensation for land under submerision. This again is too much for a tank of that type, especially now. Again, the provision of Rs. 28,800 for automatic shutters may be reduced, if not done away with by adopting less costly means. If this is done, the scheme may be remunerative. Even, otherwise the Hon. Member knows that the taluk of Rayachoti is a famine-affected taluk and the restoration of this tank, as a protective work, will go a long

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way to alleviate the suffering of the people in that locality. Though the scheme may not give the prescribed percentage on the capital outlay as at present estimated, I do hope that if the work is undertaken as a protective work, it will prove an immense boon to the locality.

“Sir, we have been looking forward to the time when the Tungabhadra scheme is going to be taken up. The Government should remember the fact that large extents of dry lands in the Ceded districts will be protected if this scheme were taken up. I also hope that as the present time is opportune for taking up fresh schemes, capital being procured at low rate of interest and labour and material being cheap, the Government will not lose time, but will immediately take up the scheme.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I bear in mind your injunction that each hon. Member who speaks should accommodate other speakers. I shall just remind the Hon. the Revenue Member of his assurance that before he lays down his office he would see that the Tungabhadra project is started. I would like to remind him further of the assurance that was definitely given by His Excellency the Governor during his tour in the Ceded districts that he would see that the scheme was set on foot before he lays down the reins of office. I should like to know where we are in regard to this matter. We are almost growing nervous, if I may say so, by the rumours that we are constantly hearing. Just for example we are told that there is a doubt as to whether there is land suitable for cultivation at all under the project. Investigations in regard to this scheme were begun some eight years ago and when after it has been under the consideration of the Government for such a long time, we hear of such things, we indeed fear we cannot take the professions of those who are speaking for the Government seriously. If water is available, certainly it can be used for either wet crops or it may be for what are called garden crops. That water could be used admits of no doubt whatsoever. It has been told, for example, that the black cotton soil may not benefit from irrigation but will suffer; but when we tell the officers that black cotton soil in Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool are actually under irrigation and have not been spoilt, we are told that the evil result would not be felt immediately, but after 20 or 30 years, this will show itself out. That is hardly a reason for the Government not to take up the scheme, for agricultural science is also developing side by side and at the end of thirty years, even if it be as is said, the science of the day would certainly be able to overcome the defect. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to the Hon. Member to kindly see his way to expedite the matter, to push forward and see that a beginning is made. Let all that has been said by him be translated into action. Let it not be a promise made to the ear and broken to the heart.”

* Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—“Mr. President, Sir, I do not also want to take up much time. With reference to some of my remarks at the

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time of the general discussion of the Budget, I was not able to get any reply from the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member has served in the deltas and he will quite well realize the difficulties in the Godavari delta to which I have drawn his attention. For instance, I put an interpellation in this Council regarding the improvements to the Nakkala drain and the Hon. Member promised that, instead of the falling shutters, screw shutters will be put up; but nothing has been done till now. The Government should have got the information this year that about 15,000 acres of land have been completely damaged by the floods in the Godavari. Instead of the drainage water flowing into the river, the river water flowed into the drain and caused much damage to the lands. There are some other drains in the delta, i.e., the Bhaggeswaram drain, the Nakkala drain and the Gonteru drain. Owing to the improper condition of these drains, there has been much damage to lands in the three taluks of Tanuku, Narasapatam and Bhimavaram. I have often drawn the attention of the Government; but they have not taken up any scheme for the improvement of these drains. We are told that the Government have provided a lot of money for the Yenamadurru drain in the Godavari Western delta. You will see from the Irrigation Budget of 1934-35 that this scheme has cost about 9 lakhs of rupees. It is well to remember that this scheme was started in 1906 and was only to be finished in 1935. These 9 lakhs have been spent over a period of quarter of a century. You will also find that no provision has been made for carrying out improvements to any of the important drains in the delta.

“ I would also draw the attention of the Government to the fact that so long as the Government get their revenue, they do not care for the welfare of the ryots howevermuch they may suffer on account of damage caused by floods or drainage water. No attempt is made to give any relief to the ryot. The old revenue officials of the district have been taking care to impress upon the Public Works department the need for keeping the drains in good order and have insisted on the preparation of estimates for their improvement. But nowadays no Collector in any district asks the Public Works department to prepare estimate for the improvement of drains to give succour to the ryots. So far as the drains are concerned, this is the chief complaint.

“ My next point is with regard to the remodelling of channels. The House remembers that the Government have collected an amount of 14 lakhs as inclusion fees with a promise that the money will be utilized mainly for the remodelling and the improvements of channels and irrigation sources. The main point that was trotted out in this Council, on behalf of the Government, was that most of the irrigation channels require remodelling and much money is required for remodelling them. What is the amount of money that has till now been spent? I am sorry to see that only Rs. 1,500 has only been provided for improvements in the delta this year which irrigates about 7 lakhs of acres of land.

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“ At the time of the Budget speech I raised the question of higher shutters over the Godavari anicut. That scheme was sanctioned, if I understand aright, some years ago and a provision of one lakh and odd was made in the previous year and now, this amount has been cut down to Rs. 18,000 and no provision has been made for the next year. I do not know what happened to this scheme—whether the work is going to be taken up or abandoned. I see from the statement given by the Finance Department that this scheme has been put under Class III.

“ I see from the manner in which the Cauvery-Mettur Project is being worked that the Government have been providing bridges and roads wherever it is necessary as part of the estimates. It has been brought to the attention of the Government that so far as the Godavari and Kistna deltas are concerned, several bridges are to be constructed almost near every village. The local bodies have been asking the Government to provide an amount for this purpose. Of course, the Government give it under the Local Self-Government Department so far as first and second class roads are concerned. But every village has no first or second class road. The question has often arisen as to the admissibility of a grant in case the road to be bridged is neither a first or second class road. I may now quote, Sir, that the present Secretary, when he was the Inspector of Local Boards, was able to get a grant in aid of a panchayat bridge in the delta. For a bridge that cost Rs. 40,000, the Government were pleased to give a contribution of Rs. 5,000. My point is that, as in deltaic areas the pathways are interrupted by the deltaic system, the Government is bound to give at least half grant, whether it be local bodies or villagers who contribute the other half. Another important factor that I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government is that so far as the Yenamadurru drain is concerned, they have made certain improvements, but I would like to point out that, though the drain has been improved, the banks have not been properly maintained, that is to say, all the earth removed from the drain is put up on the slopes there. All I want is that the bunds may be properly sectioned and arranged instead of keeping openings here and there.

“ With these words, I earnestly appeal to the Hon. the Revenue Member to see that a definite policy is laid out for the improvement of the drains. It is no use always saying that we have been improving the delta or bringing water to the lands, but the question is whether water can be properly utilized and whether it will benefit the ryot or not. If you bring more water and do not allow the water to be taken to the sea, crops will suffer. So, drainage is more important. I therefore commend this to the Hon. the Revenue Member.”

* Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—“ Mr. President, Sir, recently a Government Order was issued and that Government Order is going to work great hardship on the ryots. Up to now, unauthorized cultivation in the upper reaches of any water-supply channel, was charged at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre, but in the lower reaches only Rs. 3 or Rs. 4.

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Now, as the Government find it difficult to collect the money, they have proposed to levy a flat rate of Rs. 6-4-0. In the upper reaches, water is generally supplied to lands in proper time and the lands yield a lot of produce, but in the lower reaches water being supplied late in the season and the lands being poor, they do not yield as much produce as the lands in the upper reaches. Now, this flat rate of Rs. 6-4-0, instead of the old rate of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 on lands in the lower reaches, will certainly work hardship. The result will be that people owning lands in the upper reaches gain some advantage over those owning lands in the lower reaches and the latter find it difficult to pay these taxes. Though Government do not lose any money, yet the ryots find it very difficult to pay this flat rate of Rs. 6-4-0 instead of the old rate of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4. That is one difficulty.

“ Then, as regards the projects, the department proposed some time back to start some projects in the Guntur district, namely, Kondaleru, Nagaleru and Mellavagu. These three projects have been abandoned and the main reason given in the report of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is:

‘ That as regards the organization of a storage reservoir, the Superintending Engineer is of the opinion that since the greater portion of the rainfall occurs only in September, it is not advantageous to have a reservoir as the ryots do not cultivate paddy if the storage is made so late in the season, that is, in the month of September.’

“ Sir, I admit, that six months’ crop cannot be grown under these conditions. If water can be supplied in the month of September, short season paddy can be grown from September to January. So, there is no reason why these projects should be abandoned. I understand that the Appapuram project is going to be taken up for examination and I do not know how long it would take them to examine the proposal—it may after all be dropped after some time.

“ Coming to the question of drainage, in answer to a question of my hon. Friend, Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu, the Hon. the Revenue Member stated that there are two drains in the Bapatla taluk. One is called the Kollimerla basin and during the time of rains, about four villages will be flooded, and they are Vallabharaopalem, Upparapalem, Nandur and Bodipalem. The other drain is Appikatla basin and this drain washes off two villages completely. In the appendix to the answer, some amounts were remitted, that is, in 1930, Rs. 1,293; 1931 Rs. 3,000 and in 1932 Rs. 900 were remitted. Then, Sir, if the Government themselves remitted these taxes, what would be the loss to the houses, cattle and other properties of the poor villagers. If the Government are not going to find other sources for the people living in these villages, how can these people live there year after year under such conditions? When there is heavy rain in the Guntur, Kistna and Kurnool districts, all the rain water will run into Bapatla taluk which is a shallow place. In such circumstances, Government should not only try to help the people in land assessments, but also to endeavour to improve the drainage sources giving the village a great relief.

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“Then the other point I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Revenue Member is, about the Rompuru drain in the Bapatla taluk, about which he knows. This drain is situated very near the Bapatla town. About 35 years ago when the Public Works Department officers went to Bapatla, they found a big sheet of water in the rainy season and so they ordered that there should be no cultivation within six furlongs of this drain. Subsequently, they started improving the condition of this drain. The first improvement they effected was to connect this drain with sea water by opening Perali drain at two lakhs of rupees. The second improvement that they effected was to connect the Nallapada stream with the sea, thus making a big outlet for the water of the stream to flow into the sea. Having made all these improvements and spending about 15 lakhs of rupees within a period of ten years, they still insist on having these six furlongs limit wherein no cultivation should be undertaken. Now, within this area, there are not only ryots, but several members of the Depressed Classes who own lands. The Revenue Department have been good enough to grant lands to the Depressed Classes in this area and they also granted them pattas. In the year 1927, I put in an interpellation in this Council and the answer given on that occasion was that if the cultivation is detrimental to the ryots, then it must be stopped. If the Government remain adamant and refuse to yield to the wishes of the people, what are the poor ryots to do? They have been owning these lands for the last 60 years. The reports show that they have been cultivating these lands for the last 60 years and to-day they are sent out saying that they have no patta. Sir, if the Government themselves think like this in regard to the poor landless labourers, how can the Hon. the Finance Member say that he has sympathy for these landless labourers. About 1,200 Depressed Class ryots are living in this area and though they do not have the pattas, yet they have been cultivating these lands for the last 60 years. If the Government have any sympathy for the landless labourer, here is a case. Recently Government ordered that their crops should be sold in public auction and they are penalized. If the Hon. the Finance Member has any genuine sympathy for the landless labourer, here is a case. I think the Hon. the Revenue Member will have some sympathy for these people and try to do something for them.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The Hon. the Revenue Member may reply after lunch.”

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—“Mr. President, Sir, hon. Members have roamed over the whole Presidency in dealing with this Demand and in the time allowed, it is not possible for me to deal with all the points that have been raised. If there are any points

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to which I do not refer to in my remarks, I will have them examined later.

“ There is some difference of opinion as to whether we ought to undertake any further large irrigation works. Some hon. Members give it as their opinion that, in view of the present prices of paddy, it is not desirable to proceed with further irrigation works; while there are others who want to do much more than we do at present or desire us to encourage schemes of irrigation of dry crops. At the present moment, Sir, we have always in mind these considerations and as hon. Members are aware, the Bhavani project which we are investigating is a scheme for the irrigation of dry crops. We do not actually prohibit irrigation of wet crops, but under the scheme the amount of water supplied will not be sufficient to rear an ordinary crop of paddy; therefore, unless there is some supplemental source of irrigation, only dry crops can be raised. At the present moment, the position is that we have completed the preliminary investigation of the Bhavani project and have passed the necessary legislation with regard to this irrigation project to enable us to proceed with its further investigation. The complete investigation is now going on. Mr. Munro, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, has submitted a report on the investigation regarding the irrigation of dry crops in that area and that report is now under examination of the Director of Agriculture and with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and until it has been examined by those officers and the Irrigation Board, it is not possible for us to say what effect that report will have in the carrying out of this project. Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar said that these very detailed investigations are somewhat unnecessary. I submit that it is most essential in these days that we must be quite certain that our projects are likely to be a success, both physically so to speak as well as financially. In the past, it is true we have allowed our irrigation projects to develop in a very haphazard manner and this fact leads hon. Members coming from those districts to complain about them. The result of haphazard development is that land is irrigated in various places without any regard to drainage facilities, without economical distribution of water and without regard to communications and we have afterwards proposals brought forward for remodelling channels, for the provision of drainage, roads and bridges. Then these proposals naturally do not find favour with the Finance Department because they will not be remunerative. So, our system at present is to have all these questions carefully examined in advance to see that the estimates actually provide for all these matters to start with, so that these objections may not arise when the projects subsequently develop. I am most anxious to push on with the completion of the investigation as soon as possible for it would be undoubtedly of advantage if we were to take some of the machinery from Mettur and transfer it for use on this project. But, Sir, at the rate at which the investigations are going on, I do not think it will be possible to complete them in time to enable us to make use of the Mettur machinery. We cannot expect the Tanjore

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ryots to pay for looking after the Mettur machinery on the cost of which interest charges will be accumulating, in the hope that some time later it may be of advantage to take it to the Bhavani project. Nor can we leave the machinery lying untended or it will rust, as soon as the Mettur project is finished. There does not seem to be much chance of Bhavani project coming into execution soon. At the same time, I can assure hon. Members that I shall do my best to expedite the investigation that is going on.

“ Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar and Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar both referred to the Tungabhadra project. The position there is, as hon. Members are aware, that we are confronted with at least two other Governments, namely, Mysore and Hyderabad. We have first of all to settle the distribution of water available in consultation with these two Governments and also the Bombay Government. The Bombay Government's demand however is so small that it does not affect the scheme materially. The question for decision is how the water available in the Tungabhadra is to be distributed between the various Governments. We have received communications from the Bombay and Mysore Governments and the matter is now under examination by the Hyderabad and Madras Governments. When their examination is complete, we intend to have a conference to settle this matter. Before this is done, it is not possible to know how much water will be normally available for storage in the proposed reservoir. Meantime, the Madras and Hyderabad Governments are proceeding with the preliminary investigation of the project assuming that certain amount of water will be available in order that we may make up our minds whether it is worth while to proceed with the detailed investigation. As has been stated by my friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, the investigating officers have raised certain doubts as to the suitability of the soil for irrigation and unless and until those doubts are resolved, it will not be wise to proceed with the project. I trust that we may find that it is possible to use the water for the benefit of Bellary and other Ceded districts in some way or another. The question as to what crops can be most profitably grown is also under investigation. At the present time, Mr. Priestly and Mr. Parameswaram Pillai are studying the question of the irrigation of dry crops in Bombay and Hyderabad. I have not heard what the results of their enquiries are.

“ Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar referred to Siruvani water and suggested that instead of using it for a new scheme, a more profitable and remunerative project might be devised by improving the irrigation of land already irrigated under the Noyel and he informed us that the ryots will be prepared to pay one rupee more for acre than at present for an improved supply. I am not sure whether any proposal of that kind has been examined, but I am willing to send it for examination by the Irrigation Development Board. At the same time, I may inform the House that we have sanctioned the investigation of a scheme for the extension of irrigation of sixteen hundred acres in the

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Noyel valley. But I will have the alternative scheme now proposed also examined.

“ Mr. Peddi Raju drew attention once again to the inadequate drainage of the West Godavari Delta. A great deal has been done in the past few years towards the improvement of drainage and some lakhs have been spent on the Yenamadurru drain. At the present time, we are completing certain works in the neighbourhood of Duvva which will greatly improve the drainage of a certain portion of the delta. This is a matter which we have constantly before us and we hope that in connexion with a big scheme which is under investigation, it will be possible not only to bring 90,000 acres under irrigation but also to improve the drainage in certain respects as well as to provide higher shutters over the Dowlaishweram anicut and arrangements for lifting them. The project is under investigation and I am very anxious to see that the investigation is finished as soon as possible. I understand that it will probably be a remunerative undertaking.

“ As regards the Nakkala outfall sluices to which the hon. Member also referred, I may say that as they have not been working satisfactorily, the question whether any remedies could be adopted has been investigated and provision has been included in the Budget for certain experimental improvements. 2-45 p.m.

“ Mr. Peddi Raju also complained that large sums were collected as inclusion fees, but that nothing has been spent out of those sums. From the figures that I have obtained I see that up to June 1931 the inclusion fees collected in the Godavari Western Delta amounted to nearly Rs. 6½ lakhs. As against this sum, the cost of the special establishment amounted to Rs. 1¼ lakhs and the cost of remodelling the channels up to that time amounted to over Rs. 9,32,000. So it will be seen that the amount spent on the special establishment and on the remodelling of channels has exceeded the amount collected as inclusion fees.

“ Mr. Peddi Raju referred to a bridge for which the district board obtained a grant of Rs. 5,000 from the Government and desired that that system should be extended further. The principle on which contributions from the irrigation grant for the construction of bridges are made is this: if there was already an existing roadway when the irrigation work was constructed, then the cost should fall on the irrigation work; if it is a new means of communication, then no contribution should be made from the irrigation grant. In the case mentioned by my hon. Friend, I believe the grant was not made from the irrigation grant, but from the ordinary grants made by the Local Self-Government department for roads and bridges.

“ Mr. Krishnayya Choudari quoted from the settlement report of the Guntur district. I shall be glad if he will show me in that report the basis for his statement that the settlement rates had been raised on the assumption that certain drainage works would be carried out. I have not been able to find it myself. I would only point out that

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in forwarding the settlement officer's report, the Board of Revenue stated that allowance had been made for defective drainage in classifying the irrigation sources.

"Both Mr. Choudari and Mr. Premayya complained that no amount has been spent on the drainagé in the Kistna Western Delta. A good deal has been done in the last 30 years on the improvement of the drains. But this is a question which is very difficult of solution and the matter is still receiving attention. Again, it is a matter of finance very largely. As the improvements generally cost very large sums of money, it is difficult in these days to find money for these purposes. (Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: 'Why not keep the promise made 30 years ago?') A great deal has been done. (Laughter.) Several lakhs have been spent.

"I will look into Mr. Premayya's complaint regarding patta lands within the six-furlong limit in the Romperu drain and see if anything can be done in the matter.

"Mr. Appadurai Pillai raised again the question of the Palar. The Palar Committee asked us to obtain from the Mysore Government statistics as to the capacity and the ayacut of all tanks, Palar catchment in Mysore in 1892, 1897, 1902 and the present day. The Mysore Government informed us, they have not got some of these statistics and that it would involve considerable amount of labour and expense to complete those which could be obtained. As I have already informed the House, we have arranged with the Mysore Government that they should give us an estimate of the cost of compiling the available statistics and we are awaiting their estimates. On receipt of the estimates the matter will be further considered.

"Mr. Koti Reddi complained once again that the Cuddapah district is neglected. He said that all the projects relating to that district have been turned down as not worth carrying out. I may inform the House that we have had all these projects re-examined recently to see whether it is possible to carry out any of them. As regards the Kan-chalamma project the Chief Engineer reported that it will give a poor return and said that the following aspects also make the scheme undesirable. In the first place the availability of water for storage was doubtful in many years; secondly there was the possibility of the new tank prejudicially affecting the supply to the spring channels lower down and also the supply to the Matlaraju tank; and thirdly the foundations for the bund in the river bed would not be very good. Considering these circumstances as well as the present condition of our finances, the Government had decided that the project must be abandoned. I can assure my hon. Friend that I should be very much pleased if I could find any project which could be suitably carried out in the Cuddapah district even as a protective work. In this connexion I may say that we classified areas liable to scarcity so as to provide criteria varying with the circumstances of each tract which are to be applied in considering whether a given work proposed in the area is to

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be treated as a 'protective' work and financed under the rules applicable to such works. We have laid down that an irrigation project should ordinarily be a paying proposition, and the criterion for this has been laid down as a net return of at least 6 per cent on the sum at charge ten years after its completion. That is the usual rule. (Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: 'That is too high for the present days?') In special cases the Government may, if a project is beneficial even indirectly both to the Government and to the people, undertake it as protective irrigation work though it may yield a smaller return. That meets the hon. Member's point. We do take into consideration the needs of the people. One hon. Member wishes to know what return we expect in such cases. What we have done is to consider the conditions of each taluk in the presidency and reduce the percentage criterion suitably. For this purpose we classify the taluks into four classes. In class A the criterion is a return of not less than 3 per cent; in class B a return of not less than 4 per cent; in class C a return of not less than 5 per cent and in class D a return of not less than 6 per cent. In the Cuddapah district, no taluks are in class D; the northern half of the Cuddapah taluk falls in class C, the criterion being 5 per cent; the Rajampet and Prodattur taluks are in class B, the criterion being 4 per cent; and the rest of the district is in class A, the criterion being a return of 3 per cent. Works can be proposed within these limits as protective works and part of the cost can be met from the balances in the Famine Fund. (Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: 'If a classification list of this sort is published, it will be very useful.') I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

"Rao Bahadur Natesa Mudaliyar referred to the Cooum. That is a very difficult question. On the reclamation and improvement of the Cooum, we have spent a considerable sum of money. Here again it is not easy to find funds for further improvements. But, from my own experience, I can say that the Cooum has lost much of its offensive smell, on account of the improvements carried out in recent years.

"Some hon. Members referred to the somewhat unsatisfactory way in which Advisory Boards are functioning. At present their functions are to make recommendations on questions of policy and other important matters affecting the interests of particular irrigation system as a whole but they have nothing to do with the remedying of individual grievances. They are expected to meet once in a quarter and keep themselves in touch with the executive engineers. The question of revising the rules regulating their working and of issuing more detailed instructions is now under the consideration of Government. The suggestions made by hon. Members will be considered in that connexion. (Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: 'Better give the franchise to the district boards instead of having the members nominated by Collectors.')"

"With regard to irrigation panchayats, a suggestion was made that the Collectors might be asked to hand over to irrigation panchayats select irrigation works. I am sure the Collectors will consider any suitable suggestions that may be put before them. We have directed

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the Collectors to see what can be done. (Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: 'The Collectors may be advised to try one or two panchayats in every area.') I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

3 p.m.

"Then, Sir, it was said that there is corruption among the staff of the Public Works Department. I am sorry to hear this complaint; but I don't think that any reduction in the salary, as proposed by one hon. Member, would tend to reduce the corruption. On the other hand, a reduction in salary would only aggravate the corruption, if there is any. I am afraid it is very difficult to deal in a matter like this unless public opinion comes to the assistance of the Government. In the absence of any definite complaints I do not think the Government can do anything in the matter. I am quite sure the superior officers of the department will do what they can to stop any corruption, if there is any.

"As regards tenders, we have recently issued orders to the effect, that the Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers during their inspections of the division and subdivision offices should examine every case in which a tender other than the lowest tender has been accepted and bring to the notice of the higher authorities cases in which the rule about the acceptance of the lowest tender has been departed from without sufficient justification.

"A complaint has been made by Mr. Appadurai Pillai that sufficient money has not been allotted for the expansion of and improvements to minor irrigation sources. We have allotted thirteen lakhs for maintenance and repairs of minor irrigation tanks but expenditure on original minor irrigation works is an item which varies from year to year and is the sort of expenditure that has to be reduced in times of financial stringency. I may however mention for the information of the hon. Member that this year we have provided a sum of Rs. 20,000, and out of this, we have provided Rs. 6,000 for the Chingleput district and Rs. 4,755 for the North Arcot district, to which districts Mr. Appadurai Pillai made special reference.

"Mr. President, Sir, I think I have answered most of the points raised in this debate. I regret that I have exceeded my time-limit and I apologise for doing so."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried, and the Grant was made.

DEMAND VII—IRRIGATION—CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT—RESERVED.

*The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move—

'that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,93,500 under Demand VII. Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project—Reserved.'"

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* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

‘ to reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,93,500 for Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project—Reserved by Rs. 100.’

“ Sir, this is the one big project that has been practically completed after the new Council has been brought into existence. In the first place we have to congratulate ourselves on the fact that the estimate for the work has not been exceeded, as is not generally the case in all Public Works Department works. As a matter of fact the actual expenditure is well below the old estimate, and it is said that we will have a balance of nearly 70 or 80 lakhs as per the original estimate. But I should like to know, Sir, what these savings really represent. Do they represent a short expenditure, due to low price of materials and cheap labour, or is it due to any changes in the work that was originally proposed? And if it is due to change in the work, may I know whether it involves a reduction in the acreage of cultivation that is going to be brought under the scheme?

“ Secondly, I should like to know whether this revised estimate took into consideration the sale-proceeds of the machinery utilized in the project and also the cost of the township of Mettur, which has been constructed at such a vast expenditure. I should like to know what arrangement the Government are going to make with regard to the town of Mettur. Sir, when we were all expecting this Government to utilize the machinery employed in the Mettur project in some other big project, it was a surprise and disappointment to us to hear the Hon. Revenue Member this morning announcing that it is not possible to utilize the machinery in any other big project, because there is no other big project ready at hand for execution. So, I should like to know what Government are going to do with the machinery. And if they are going to sell it, what amount they propose to get out of it?

“ Then, again, Sir, with reference to the final figure of expenditure on the scheme, may I know whether in view of this, Government will reconsider their proposals as people complained that the rates originally fixed are too high? In the first place Government would have to consider the present level of prices, as otherwise people would not be prepared to take water. May I know whether Government are in a position to reduce the water rate?

“ Then there is the fact that we have all along been expanding the cultivation of paddy in this Province from year to year, and probably the time has come when we should think of stopping any further extension of this crop. So have Government considered the question of giving water under the scheme to crops other than paddy? I am glad the question of utilizing Mettur water for dry crops has been raised by the people of the Tanjore district themselves. If so, what is the Government's conclusion?

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“Then there is also this question. When the scheme was first started it was proposed that the people of Coimbatore and Salem districts should get some benefit out of this scheme, by running two channels from the project, one running into the Salem and the other into the Coimbatore districts. Now if the people of Tanjore are not willing to take water at the present high water-cess, if Government are willing to give water for dry crops, may I know whether it would be profitable to Government to let water to the Coimbatore and Salem districts for cultivation of dry crops? I should also like to know how many acres in the Tanjore district are being irrigated at the present moment out of the water from Mettur? And how many acres are likely to be brought under cultivation afresh within the current year and the next? Sir, we have been of late reading in the newspapers that the people of Tanjore are not able to take water at the rate prescribed by Government? Is it a fact, Sir, that many of the owners of land have declined to take water, or are not likely to take water as was originally expected? These are matters on which I expect the Government to give us some information: and in case it is found necessary to reconsider the scheme on the lines I suggested. It is with that purpose I gave notice of this cut motion.”

* Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“Mr. President, Sir, as a representative coming from the area for which the project is said to be intended, a special responsibility is laid on me, and I also have a special mandate from my electorate. The Government have not taken any steps to repay the Government of India loan by either raising fresh loans in the open markets at a lesser percentage of interest, or by conversion of the same when cheap money is available. The Hon. the Finance Member has said that the Government of India have agreed to the repayment of a crore. Then, what about the balance of 5 crores and odd? Why pay more than what is necessary? The Government may save 15 lakhs of rupees in interest charges, if these loans are converted, as suggested by me.

“In the project area, the old irrigation sources have been disturbed. The Cauvery water gets into the private tanks without the request or even the knowledge of the owners, and water-cess is now being demanded for the entire ayacut. Leading channels are left open like blind alleys in the middle of a big plain without any definite course, so much so, the whole area is flooded, and water flows out into all depressions and heavy damages are caused to the fields. Protests from the ryots are not heard by the authorities. Permits for the supply of water have not yet been given to all, and the ayacut register is not open for inspection in the village. The village officials charge as they please and use this new weapon as a lever for illegal exactions. The Government guarantee that they will not interfere with the existing sources, and supply of water is not respected at all. Ryots are ignorant of what would have to be paid, and whether they would be charged at all for use of the water that was going to waste along the side drains of roads for wetting the lands to harvest the groundnut

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crops. They are being charged Rs. 5 an acre. Due to lack of seasonal rains and the low price of groundnut, the ryots have very little, and so to extort a levy of Rs. 5 per acre for wetting the lands is nothing but bleeding them to death. The rules, whatever they may be, have to be interpreted in a sympathetic manner.

“ Regarding the improvements to the communications in the project area, the Pattukkottai-Tanjore railway line has not yet been expedited. It still seems to be only in contemplation. My present information is that the railway line is to be stopped at Enadi, 4 miles from Pattukkottai. The line must go through to Pattukkottai, and the Government of India should be addressed by this Government for taking up and finishing the construction of the railway line before the end of 1935, to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers.

“ As regards the development of cultivable waste lands irrigated by this project, a net extra profit of Rs. 15 lakhs will be available to Government, if large scale model sugarcane research stations, farms and factories are established by Government. I am not satisfied with the present policy of the Government, of selecting a small plot of 30 acres of patta lands in Pattukkottai taluk for the purpose of this experiment at a heavy cost. Large tracts of Government lands are available in Pattukkottai and other taluks. I ask why Government are not making use of them.

“ In Revenue Board's Standing Order No. 88-B, the Gov- 3-15
ernment expect a return of 6 per cent on the total outlay, p.m.
during the first ten years. In accordance with the Irrigation Commission's Report of 1901, it is enough if the Government is satisfied in the days of continued depression with a return of 3 per cent only and thus reduce the water-rate to the ordinary simplified system of Rupees 6-4-0 per acre for first crop and Rs. 3-2-0 for second crop as in Tholudur project.

“ For the purpose of forming new roads in the Mettur project area, Government have sought the help of the Tanjore District Board and have asked them to carry out those works. But the district board is called upon to bear the entire cost of the works. The money that Government have till now advanced to the district board is being treated as a loan and not as a contribution. I have to enter my protest against this. These roads are being laid for the express benefit of the Government. But it is strange that the district board should be called upon to meet the cost of the same. Therefore I request Government to treat the one lakh of rupees already advanced as a contribution and not as a loan.”

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Sir, I am glad that one of the biggest projects in the world and also the biggest project in Southern India has almost come to a state of completion and it is to be opened very soon by His Excellency the Governor. Though my district has not got any benefit and though so far not even the slightest hope that she will get some benefit from that reservoir has been held out, I must

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congratulate the Government on having successfully completed this big project. It is really a great achievement to the Madras Government, and I congratulate Sir Archibald, our Revenue Member, for having completed this monster construction during his tenure of office. Sir, though the Government have showed their material sympathy to other districts, they have not shown any real sympathy, i.e., sympathy in action to my district. For all the trouble we have taken and agitation that we made, the Government have spent a few thousands in investigation as a result of which they have issued a Government Order covering fifteen pages which we all have the opportunity of going through at our leisure hours and by this Government Order, they console themselves that every possible thing has been done to my district. But I cannot rest satisfied and console myself that the Government have done every thing to help my district. I wish to put forward a new proposal before the Government which I hope they will be pleased to give their earnest consideration and this is the providing of irrigational facilities to Salem district from Mettur Reservoir by means of pumping. I hear, Sir, that, about this proposal, some prominent gentlemen of the district have also interviewed the Collector and the people of Omalur taluk have also convened a meeting and gave expression to their feelings that Government should explore this scheme, namely, the scheme of pumping water for irrigating an area of more than 15,000 acres from Mettur Reservoir. I have every hope, Sir, that this scheme is worth trying and can be successfully worked out at a small cost and without undue burden to the ryots. At Mettur, we have got every arrangement for the achievement of a hydro-electric scheme. The Government have invested a lot of money at Mettur in doing all the preliminary work of laying by putting the necessary pipes and making other arrangements with regard to this hydro-electric scheme and very soon this scheme will be an accomplished fact if the Government have the desire. They have got a large amount of water stored up at Mettur and they will have to allow this water gradually down the river for irrigation in Tanjore area and in so doing they have got ample scope for generating a large quantity of electricity at a very low cost. I am sure the quantity of electric power they will have at their disposal will be more than what they need and that power may very well be used for pumping water at Mettur. Since the portion of Salem district adjoining Mettur is a hilly tract for about 3 or 4 miles, this process of pumping is to be resorted to. If the water is taken to the distance of 3 or 4 miles through pipes by means of pumping, then we have got the advantages of gravitation. The probable height to which the water is to be pumped up will be about 400 feet. By this process we can conveniently provide irrigation facilities during primary paddy season, viz., from July to October. During this season, we will have freshes in the river. The dam will be full and a large surplus quantity of water will be flowing down the river. So, without any loss or extra trouble, we will be able to have enough water power to generate a large quantity of electricity, a portion of which we can utilize, for pumping up the water for irrigation. Since this question has been taken to the

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notice of the Collector as I said before, I believe, the Collector in his turn ought to have made a report of it to the Government and the whole matter may be before the Government now. If they have not got it, I will be quite glad to submit a memorandum to the Hon. the Revenue Member in this behalf. So, I request that the Government will do well to explore this possibility also and provide some facilities for irrigation in our district. If they undertake this scheme and accomplish it, I am sure about 15,000 acres of land can be brought easily under cultivation. I am also told, Sir, that this sort of irrigation system by means of pumping the water is existing in Kistna district and I am further told that it is working there very successfully. So I think they may do the same thing here also, with benefit both to themselves and the poor ryots of the Salem district. The Government have got every thing at their command and if they have got the will they can certainly do it. It is not at all a big or an impossible thing for them. The process is very simple. They have to force up the water by means of pumping to a distance of about 3 or 4 miles and to a height of about 400 feet, and then they have got the advantage of gravitation and it will be very easy for them to bring the water up to Salem and divert it in all ways. I shall place a memorandum in this behalf before the hon. Member soon. I hope the Government will take up this question, consider it in detail, make a thorough investigation and allow the people of the Salem district to have some benefit from this reservoir which is built at their very border rendering many of them homeless.

“With regard to the people who were employed in the various offices at Mettur, I am furnished with figures, in reply to an interpellation of mine, that there will not be many who will be thrown out of employment. I am glad to have this information from the Government. All along, I was thinking that a large number of people would be thrown out of employment, if the various offices at Mettur are closed, and hence they would be put to much suffering. But, now, Sir, I am glad to note that only about three clerks, excluding the unpassed hands and twelve copyists and some peons would lose their jobs.

(A voice “What about labourers?”)

“With regard to the labourers, they will have to be inevitably thrown out of employment. But I wish the lower Bhavani and Tungabhadra Projects would come to their rescue. Since the people without any lien on other appointments are only in very small numbers, the Government may easily provide for them in future vacancies that may come up in their various departments.

“Then, Sir, with regard to buildings and other structures at Mettur, it has been suggested to the Government, time and again, that they may very well start a technological institute or some such thing, there. I believe the Government are now considering this question with all seriousness, since the project is nearing completion and works are to be wound up soon. I think Government will come to some definite conclusion ere long. Since our country is far backward in

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industrial development I think the Government will not lag behind to come up with material proposals to make use of these buildings for some industrial purposes. They have got electricity at their door to help them in any operations that they may undertake.

“With regard to easy approach to this lovely dam, from Salem and other places, I am aware that there is a proposal to take the trunk road from Thopur to Mettur and then to Bhavani, which is being worked out, now. I do not know how far that work has progressed now. As far as I am aware the proposal was to lay the road from Mettur to Mecheri which is about 8 or 9 miles and then take it to Thoppur to connect it to Madras-Calicut trunk road. To an interpellation of mine put some time back, I remember to have got an answer that the work was not progressing. Now I wish to know definitely how far the work has progressed. If the Government have not completed the work, I request them to see that the work is completed and the road well laid out up to Mecheri, at least. Then, it will be easy for people to reach Mettur from Salem. There is another road which connects Mettur from Salem. That will be a shorter route for the people who go from the southern parts and south-western parts of the district. That road passes through Nangavalli. Up to Nangavalli we have got district board road. From there the distance to Mettur is only eight miles out of which the district board has undertook to set right about four miles. The other four miles were looked after by the Mettur authorities. I do not know if they have abandoned that portion now, because they are linking up at Mecheri by means of another new road. I want that Government should maintain the former road, also, because it would be very inconvenient for people in the south if they do not do so. After all, they will have to maintain a road only for four miles, which has already been formed. So I hope the Government will keep this road under their maintenance and thus allow facilities to the people of the southern parts to have easy access to the famous Mettur Dam.

“With these few words, I once more appeal to the Government to give their best consideration to the proposals I have made.”

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“It is a matter for congratulation that Government have been able to bring this project to a successful completion. Sir, a large amount has been involved in this scheme and it is up to the Government to find out ways and means as to how to pay interest towards the loan taken for this project.

“There are very few points which I would like to advance. I hope the Government will be sympathetic in considering those points. During last year when a similar demand was taken up in this House, my hon. Friend, Mr. Siva Raj, brought to the notice of the Government and requested them to lease large tracts of land which are lying waste at Mettur to the Depressed Classes so that they may form colonies there and thus make a living. In pursuance of this I understand that the Government made a recommendation to the Board of Revenue to that effect but unfortunately they have not accepted it. But they have gone to

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the extent of asking the Depressed Class people to form co-operative societies and if the members of the Depressed Classes were to become members of that particular co-operative society, they would be prepared to give the land at the rate of one acre per head. Now that restrictions have been placed upon tea by a resolution passed in the Assembly, a large number of estate coolies that were employed in tea plantations in South India have been asked to go away. Salem is a very important labour centre for these estates and I know personally that in the Attur and Namakkal taluks a large number of these estate labourers are idling away their time without any work. In addition to this, on account of the low prices obtaining for rubber large labour forces have been sent away from the Federated Malay States and such other rubber growing areas. The Government have to see whether they cannot go to the rescue of these people who have a very low status in life by granting them lands for cultivation in areas where there are plenty of lands cultivated. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to see whether he cannot kindly take up this matter and give lands to the Depressed Classes without insisting on their forming themselves into co-operative societies even in the very beginning. As these people have not got any capital to invest in co-operative societies if they are given lands first and at a later stage asked to form themselves into co-operative societies, I am sure they will readily do so. 3-30 p.m.

“Secondly, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government one point with regard to the officers and servants employed on this Project. More than 90 per cent of the people employed are drawn from one community and one community alone. Even the very watchmen who are supposed to be watching the canals, sluices and the shutters are drawn from the higher castes. Therefore what happens is this. These people are asked to do the domestic work of the officers under whom they are serving. The watchmen have to be near the canals throughout the day and night, of course on a shift system; but if they are taken away for domestic service with the officers, I think it will be dangerous. Therefore, I suggest that these small appointments at least may be given to members of communities who deserve some consideration at the hands of Government. These are the two points which I wanted to bring to the notice of the Hon. Member and I am sure he will give some sympathetic consideration to this matter.”

* Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—“Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this cut motion in order to urge on the Government the necessity for reducing the water-rate in the Mettur area. My hon. Friend, Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai, has dealt with all the aspects of the question very elaborately. In urging on the Government to reduce the water-rate to Rs. 3, I am only voicing forth the views of the ryots concerned. As a matter of fact, I know and the ryots also have been making representations to the Government to that effect, that it is not at all paying to take water at the present rate and that they are put to much loss. Of course, it is usually argued by the Government that the ryots are not compelled to take water if they have no mind to do so. But

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on account of the percolation from the channels which run across the villages in those areas, the dry lands have become unfit for the cultivation of dry crops which they have been raising for a very long time, so much so, the ryots have only either to cultivate wet crops or leave their lands fallow and pay the kist.

“Some hon. Members of this House seem to think that Tanjore has been favoured by this Government undertaking this Project. It may be, Sir, that a large sum has been spent on constructing this dam, and it may be that a large area of dry lands has been brought under wet cultivation in the Tanjore district. But, Sir, I must tell this House that because of this Mettur Project, we, in Tanjore, are going to be crushed and crushed once for all and that the ryot population will have no existence in future on account of the heavy taxes that the Government propose to levy. Government Order after Government Order violating even the principles of settlement are being issued levying new water-rates. G.Os. No. 1238 of 14th July 1933 and No. 474 of 15th March 1933 are instances in point. The latter Government Order directs the imposition of a flat water-rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per acre on second-crop lands and other additional rates and cesses and the former reclassifies the irrigation sources in the Tanjore district and increases the rates of land revenue on wet lands in the old delta by more than rupee one per acre. In answer to an interpellation of mine on this subject some time last week, the Government have said that they had received several representations from ryotwari landholders' associations and individual ryots protesting against these arbitrary levies but that they see no reason to cancel the Government Orders. Sir, already we are groaning under heavy taxation and the ryots are in a precarious position. It is a matter well known to the members of this House that even the little yield we were able to get after the failure of the north-east monsoon, on account of the cyclone havoc and the heavy and the untimely rains in January, we are not able to dispose of. We are in a dilemma not knowing what to do even to pay the Government kist. When such is the state of affairs, this Government Order threatens us in our very face. The Government say they are not prepared to reconsider the matter and they see no reason to cancel their orders. May I ask the Government whether they are right and just in raising the classification and thus raising the taram and consequently the assessment without making any crop experiments? The tarams were settled at the time of the settlement only with reference to the average yield got from the various tarams and now how could they raise the tarams without definitely knowing whether the yield has increased or not? It is a doubtful question. Because the Mettur Project has been completed and that more benefits are likely to accrue to the ryots, is it right on the part of the Government to increase the assessment without making even crop experiments? I do not think, Sir, it is proper on the part of the Government to do that. So, I would appeal to the Government to reconsider this matter. It may be said that a greater area than was expected has now been brought under cultivation under the Project.

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The main reason for that is that the propaganda officer and several other officers of the Government as well as several Mirasidars' Associations in the district were giving out freely to the ryots concerned that in these new areas, the assessment would be reduced to Rs. 3 per acre for the first few years. It is on account of that that a large area, much more than was expected, at the beginning of the fasli has been brought under cultivation this year. Therefore unless the rate is reduced to Rs. 3 an acre, there will be no escape for the ryots and they would be put to great difficulty. I once more appeal to the Government to reduce the rate to Rs. 3 an acre.

"It may be argued that if the project is to be a success, the water-rates charged must be sufficient to enable the Government to pay the interest on the loan raised for financing the project and that the present rates are calculated on that basis. In reply to that, I may say, as has been pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai, that the loan may be repaid by raising another loan either from the public or from the Government of India at the present rates which are much lower. The Government of India themselves may be persuaded to lend the money at a lower rate of interest so that this Government may be enabled to charge lower water-rates and give some relief to the ryots. As has been pointed out by me on a previous occasion the scheme should not be treated solely as a productive one but it should be treated partly as productive and partly as protective. The scheme was mainly undertaken at first to ensure regular water-supply to the old delta and to save it from the vicissitudes of season and only secondarily to bring under wet cultivation the dry lands and to uplift the Kallar community in those areas. This is a relief to which Tanjore ryot is entitled and the Government are not justified in expecting a return for the whole amount spent.

"Sir, I have more than once urged on the Government the necessity of providing adequate drainage facilities for the new Mettur area. Recently the engineering officers of the Government summoned a conference of the ryots of these areas and told them that there was no need for any drainage facilities, but as one who knows the locality and who lives in their midst, I may say that even during the recent rains many houses collapsed and extensive damage was caused to cattle and property. The only argument that these engineering officers are able to put forward is that the drainage facilities which existed prior to the introduction of this scheme have not been altered and have been kept in tact. That is their only argument. Now, Sir, when dry lands are converted into wet it is within the knowledge of all that they take more water than wet lands. When there is a heavy rain, the rain water adds to the water stagnating in the wet lands and the drainage channels are not able to drain both. The result is considerable damage to lands even in the old area. For instance, in my own taluk of Mannargudi the river Pannaiyar has breached for the last three years consecutively owing to the inflow of a larger volume of water from the project area. This was brought to the notice of the authorities several times but it had no effect and the proposal to cut open the Korayar and take it directly to

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the sea, so that both the rivers Pamaniar and Korayar may be easily drained is still a proposal. I am afraid it has not been sanctioned and is kept in abeyance. So much so, landholders in these parts have only to be praying to God to save them in future years from heavy flood damages. I request the Government to take early steps to see that the already inadequate drainage facilities of the existing delta are not made more inadequate by allowing the new delta water to swell the old drainage channels.

3-45
p.m.

“ I am glad that there is a proposal of the Government to open a farm at Pattukkottai for trying sugarcane and other garden crops. I would request the Government to open another farm in Mannargudi taluk also. It may be a little costly; all the same I urge the same for the reason that the soil of Pattukkottai is quite different from that of Mannargudi. If a farm is opened at Mannargudi and demonstrated, it will help the ryots very much; people can be induced to grow these crops and the Government may be able to collect their revenue very easily.

“ Before I conclude I wish to say a word about our dilemma in this matter. This Government have been urging on the ryots to try garden crops of the type of sugarcane and other things. On the other hand, in introducing the present Imperial Budget Sir George Schuster observed as follows:—

‘ The total production of sugar from Indian factories at the present level is likely to be more than India's consumption of white sugar. There is real danger of over-production; sooner or later it may lead to very serious reactions both on the manufacturing industry and on the cane-growers who rely on it.’

If this is the case I submit that even with regard to sugarcane we may have to suffer the same consequences as we are suffering by growing paddy. So, I would urge on the Government that the only thing they can do to help the ryot population at the present moment is to reduce the water-rate and thus save them from utter ruin.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

* MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Sir, I beg to move the following motion, viz :—

‘ that the allotment of Rs. 13,93,500 for Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project—Reserved—be reduced by Rs. 100.’

In doing so, I want to raise the question of the policy that is adopted by the Government with regard to the water-rate. I have been here in this Council for some time hearing complaints from districts where there have been big irrigation schemes that the water-rate imposed by the Government is very high and that they cannot pay this high rate. This complaint has been very insistent for the last two years because the Tanjore mirasidars particularly have held a large number of conferences and published a number of leaflets where they have made similar complaints. My Friend, the hon. Member for Tanjore says the Tanjore people will have to migrate if same conditions are to continue. On the other hand the Ceded Districts from which I come have been complaining that the Government have not done their part of the duty of constructing big irrigation schemes for these parts.

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There is something wrong somewhere. The question is, whether it is necessary to construct big irrigation schemes, if the irrigation systems do not pay and if the present rates do not pay, can the ryots pay more and why should more irrigation schemes be started? On the one hand there is the complaint in this Council that the water-rate should be reduced; and on the other hand there is insistent demand for extension of irrigation schemes. To me it appears that the Government do not pay any regard for any principles in the imposition of water-rates. Happily or unhappily the Government have adopted a very intelligible principle with regard to taxation of land. I think they may follow the same principle with regard to irrigation also. What is the policy behind the Government in imposing a certain water-rate for water the Government may supply to the ryot? Is it the cost of water to Government? Or is it the utility of the water for the ryot? If the water-rate depends upon the utility of the water to the ryot, one can understand it. Or, is it the ability of the ryot to pay? Is that taken into consideration when imposing this rate? I do not know what principle the Government are adopting in this matter. It seems to be a jumble of two or three principles; they follow one principle in one place; they follow another principle in another place. That is why they have landed themselves in such an unhappy position, giving rise to various complaints from various parts of the Presidency. I do not think the Government attach much importance to the principle that they should tax for the water according to the amount it costs them. When it is advantageous to the Government, they adopt that principle; when it is a disadvantage to them, they do not adopt it. Let me illustrate my point. If they think that a scheme is not productive, they ask the ryot to pay a certain high rate for water; otherwise they say it does not pay them to take up the scheme. They sometimes even say 'let the people contribute half or one-fourth of the capital expenditure; then only we will take it up.' If their principle is based on the cost of water, what about the Godavari or Cauvery schemes which are not costly as I think what the Government gets from the ryot is very much more than the cost of water to the Government. If the cost of water is Rs. 2 they demand from the ryots, Rs. 10.

"There is another test which the Government may apply and that is the ability of the ryot to pay. Personally I think that is very difficult to apply. Perhaps this principle cannot be given effect to in the Irrigation department. The sound principle, the intelligible principle seems to be the utility of the water to the ryot. The rate which a ryot can and will be willing to pay will depend upon the utility of the water to the ryot. If that principle is adopted, there will not be much complaint, because the Government are bound to go into the question in detail whether a particular rate for the water is going to benefit the ryot or not and to what extent. That question should be seriously investigated before they impose a particular rate. It may be a very difficult principle to follow; it requires a lot of investigation; but it seems to me, that it is a very sound principle, instead of having as at present a uniform rate for all lands. For example take two separate fields under the same channel. The utility of water to the ryot varies

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according to the fertility of the soil; what is good for a particular ryot in a particular area may not be good for the very same ryot in another area, owing to the variation in the fertility of the soil. The ryot may be prepared to pay a higher rate in a soil which is more fertile than another which is less fertile. Then there is the other question also. In certain places the ryot will have facilities for having green manure. If you charge the same rate to the same ryot in another place, he will not be able to pay it, because of the high cost of cultivation or of the utility of the water at that place to a less extent. It is not advisable to demand the same rate for all places. I think the Government should adopt this principle, though it may be somewhat difficult to adopt it. Instead of imposing a uniform rate, the Government should consider the question of the extent of usefulness of water to the ryot. If they adopt this principle it will be to the interest of the country and to the interest of the ryots. The Government should consolidate the charge both for land and for water. If the ryot is making a profit, even half of the net value can be taken by the Government. The Government will then be taxing the ryot according to the profit he will be making. The rate should vary from field to field, from place to place. The Government should not have a uniform rate throughout.

“Take the Tungabhadra Project for instance. The Government say, ‘unless you pay Rs. 15 or so an acre, the scheme will not be remunerative.’ You should not have the same rate of Rs. 15 for the whole district or districts. It will be easy for a ryot in a particular place to pay Rs. 15 and it will not be easy for another ryot in another place to pay the same rate. It depends on various considerations, cheapness of labour, cheapness of other materials for irrigation purposes. All these things ought to be taken into consideration before the Government charge a particular rate for water. The very same principle is applicable both with regard to small schemes and with regard to big schemes. It will be a very sound principle to take into consideration the benefit which a particular project will confer on the people. I hope the Government will take into consideration these points. They should not impose a uniform rate for all fields under a particular irrigation scheme. They should adopt the principle of utility of water to the ryot which is more intelligible, more reasonable, more justifiable and more equitable. I would impress on the attention of the Government the necessity to go into the question thoroughly, because we have been hearing complaints from districts where there are big irrigation schemes, that they cannot afford to pay the present rate. If that is the case, there is no use of taking up big schemes in other parts of the Presidency. You must take into consideration the utility of the water to the ryot. The cost of an irrigation may be very high but the ryot will not be able to pay a very high rate, because the utility of the water to him will be very much less.

4 p.m. “So, when considering the question whether a particular scheme is to be taken up or not, I hope the Government will go into the question

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of the utility of water in the various tracts and then come to a conclusion as regards rates. If the cost is prohibitive, they may of course drop the scheme altogether; but if the cost of the scheme is not prohibitive and if the utility of water can be assessed at a reasonable rate, I do not see why the Government should not carry out the scheme and gain thereby. If this is done, I am sure the present system of the Government demanding contributions from ryots in particular areas will go; and in regard to the Ceded districts especially where whenever we demand that something should be done, the Government say 'we cannot undertake a scheme; you had better give half the cost or one-third.' Recently in my district, I think in two places, they demanded a percentage of the cost from the ryots in regard to certain channels; and the ryots did contribute a portion of the expenditure. I do not see why it should be so. I hope, Sir, that the Government will in future adopt the policy that I have put forward. There is the agricultural department, and it would not be difficult, with all the experience that it has had in various places, for that department to find out what will be the utility of the water in particular tracts. My friend, Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai stated that under the Cauvery-Mettur Project, there are at present tracts of land which are neglected and which can be colonized. He said that the Government should open up big farms in such areas. To my knowledge of course Government undertakings in various departments have not been really fruitful and I therefore feel sceptical about the success of these farms; but still, I would ask them to make this experiment, because sometimes these experiments may prove profitable. Other countries, especially Russia, are making such big experiments in many directions; and I do not see why our Government—though not on the same big scale—should not start farms on a suitable scale. I think, Sir, it is rather unhappy that although other districts like Salem and Coimbatore have many a time stated that they would be prepared to pay for the water from this project, they have not been given the benefit. The whole water is practically going to be used by the mirasidars of the Tanjore district; and yet we find them complaining that they cannot pay the water-rate. Even now, I think it is not too late for the Government to reconsider the whole question and give the benefit of the water to the Salem and Coimbatore districts, at least partially."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Mr. President, Sir, after hearing the clear logic and the forcible language of the hon. Member from Cuddapah, it is very difficult for any one to be able to rise in the House and put in a concise form what he thinks on any subject coming before the House. But I have on this occasion only two points to raise, one is revenue and the other is financial. I quite sympathize with the position of the mirasidars of the Tanjore district when they complain that under the present circumstances it is impossible for them to pay the rate of Rs. 15 which when framing the scheme, the Government thought the mirasidars would be able to pay as the wealth of the Tanjore district would be improved and that it would be

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flowing with milk and honey. We have had to wait and see what the result would be. My first question to the Revenue Department is: As the Mettur Project is to begin to function this year, what is the additional extent of cultivation that was brought about anew, and what is the rate of assessment agreed to as between the Government and the ryots for the water given to the taluks? If that is known, we would be in a position to understand not only the original policy but the present policy also and also whether all the water of the project would be utilized by the mirasidars and cultivators to such an extent as to make the project remunerative. What is the acreage under cultivation and what is the acreage that will come under cultivation hereafter?

“ The second point, i.e., the financial point is more important than the grievances of the Tanjore mirasidars, and it relates to the financial policy of the Government of India. They have, in their benevolence, given relief to other Provinces than Madras. To Bombay, recently, they have given relief; to Bengal they have given relief; but to Madras they have denied even the piece of bread that Madras is justly entitled to. It is very gratifying to note that the Madras Government have made every endeavour to press on the attention of the Government of India its claims for relief, that as a very careful and prudent manager of the financial affairs, this Province is entitled to more ready and more willing assistance than has been given to other and more extravagant Provinces—Provinces that have been not so provident and have not been able to manage their affairs as carefully as Madras has been able to do but which have received the benefit of the relief which the Government of India have distributed. Sir, what is the crime that Madras has committed that it should not be given its legitimate share of relief? I am really glad that two of the leading dailies of this Province, the *Hindu* and the *Mail* raised the question and asked why in the distribution of relief to all the Provinces, the legitimate claims of Madras have not been satisfied. The Madras Government are already hard-pressed to it in regard to the conversion of loans from a higher to a lower rate of interest which the Government of India have been charging in respect of loans for big projects and for development schemes in this Province. This Government asked that the rate of interest on such loans should be reduced to the present rates prevailing in the market. Not only that. They even said legitimately that out of the Provincial balances, this Government would be prepared to pay the loans outstanding in the Provincial Loan Account, or in the alternative, that they might be permitted to raise loans locally in the market at a lower rate of interest, so that they might be in a position to discharge the liabilities which are standing against them.” Sir, what have the Government of India done? Public opinion in this Province is strong that the Government of India have been very partial and unjust in this matter. Therefore, I have risen to-day to press this matter on the attention of the Government, that this Government should not slacken their efforts in this matter, that they should put up every argument before the Government of India and see that this Province gets the very same generous treatment that has been accorded

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to other Provinces. Sir, the details given at page 78 of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum show in what cases the Government of India have given loans, how much they have given, at what rates and for what purposes. In regard to the Cauvery-Mettur Project, we find that in the year 1931-32 loan was taken on which the interest has been reduced from 6.25 to 6 per cent from the 1st October 1933. Is this the relief to be given to a Province which has been managing its affairs carefully and efficiently, while at the same time the Government of India has rushed with relief to the Provinces which have been extravagant, which have never been able to develop their resources? Why should Madras be treated in this manner? In regard to item 3 at page 78 again, we find at the bottom of the page the actual reductions made in the interest payable, shown by an asterisk. We find therefrom that the rates of interest are very heavy and that the concession given is very inadequate. This clearly shows that the burden of interest which this Province has to bear is very great, very considerable; and if the principle adopted in the case of other loans is adopted here also, we would be able to save probably half of the interest, i.e., about Rs. 42 lakhs. I therefore think that this House should unanimously press on the Government the necessity for renewing their efforts in asking the permission of the Government of India to raise loans in the local market, so that we may ourselves lower the rate of interest from 6.25 or 6 per cent which the Government of India are now charging on the loans we have taken from them; or even that they should allow us to pay the loans from out of the Provincial Balances, so that a portion at least of our debt may be wiped out. These two points are very essential to be considered, if the finances of the Province are to be set right and any large sum of money is to be relieved either for what hon. Members of this House have been asking, i.e., for remission of land revenue—or for the purpose of developing the nation-building departments. I think there is no use of asking for remission of land revenue when we have got these old heavy debts hanging on us, bearing heavy rates of interest.

“As regards the Cauvery-Mettur Project, my views have always been clearly stated. Ever since 1926-27, I have not been one of those who looked on this with great confidence, because, as I said, we did not have the necessary data before us, whether the ryots of the Pattukkottai taluk were willing to pay the high rate of assessment on which this project was based and on which basis alone it was declared remunerative. Member after Member and successive Revenue Members have assured us that there was such great demand on the part of the Pattukkottai taluk ryots for water, even for supplementing the present water-rate, that it was absolutely necessary for carrying out the project, at a cost of Rs. 6 crores. I have always placed a discount on that statement, and to-day we find that circumstances have so transpired that it is impossible for the Pattukkottai ryots to pay at the rate of Rs. 15 per acre, nor any rate for the additional water supplied to them for dry cultivation. The whole purpose of the Mettur Project was to supplement the existing

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irrigation in the Tanjore district and to bring new land in the Pattukottai taluk under wet cultivation. The Tanjore mirasidars themselves say that they would rather abandon wet cultivation and the production of wet crops and take to dry crops, if necessary, to enable them to make both ends meet, than have to pay the high water-rate of Rs. 15 per acre. Under these circumstances, Sir, it seems to me that it is a matter of considerable speculation as to how far this project will pay and for how long this Province will have to bear the burden of a heavy interest on the loans taken for this purpose. I hope, however, that in the course of a few years greater wisdom will dawn on the mirasidars of the Tanjore district and that they will agree to pay Rs. 15 per acre as water-cess. In the general interests of the tax-payer it is highly necessary that we should request the Hon. the Finance Member that he should represent to the Government of India that the rate of interest is very high and it should be reduced by taking conversion loans. Or in the alternative this Government may request the Government of India to pay these debts off from out of our balances. I hope the Hon. the Finance Member will take early steps even before the present Budget Session comes to a close to see that the concession which has been accorded to other extravagant Provinces is extended to us."

4-15
p.m.

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to intervene in this debate to draw the attention of the Government to the need for reducing interest charges in respect of the loans under the Cauvery-Mettur Project and other projects. The point has been ably dealt with by previous speakers. As has been pointed out by my hon. Friends some relief has been given to this Province by the Government of India with regard to the interest charges on loans raised by this Government from the Provincial Loans Account. But enough relief has not been given, and it is up to this House to strengthen the hands of the Government, when they go up to the Government of India again for relief. This is not a matter of interprovincial jealousies. We are not asking for special favours. It has to be remembered that this Government's Loan Account is not very much. It will be seen that with regard to the Pre-Reform Provincial Loan Account under devolution rule 23 almost the whole amount has been paid and it may not be necessary for this Government to ask for any relief with regard to that. But with regard to the loans under devolution rule 24, in the case of loans up to the end of the financial year 1916 to 1917 the rate of interest has been fixed at 3.3252 per cent. With regard to loans after 1916-17 the rate of interest goes to as high as 6 per cent. I find that with regard to the loans raised in 1931-32 for the Cauvery-Mettur and other projects the rate of interest which originally stood at 6.25 per cent was reduced by the Government of India to 6 per cent to take effect from 1st October 1933. I think, Sir, even this 6 per cent is a high rate even for individuals to pay and for a Provincial Government like Madras with a good credit to pay interest at 6 per cent to the Government of India at a time when money is available at cheaper rate of interests is not a fair bargain. I find that the interest on the loan of 1930-31 which was fixed

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at 6.25 per cent has been reduced to 5 per cent. As I said the question is "Has enough relief been given?" Our debt position as explained in the Budget Memorandum is expected on 31st March 1935 to amount to 11½ crores of rupees. As against this liability the expenditure on remunerative projects financed by these loans comes to about 15 crores, so that really the Madras Government is in a very good credit position. Therefore I feel that it is not right that the Government of India should continue to drive a hard bargain with this Government. I would request the Government of Madras to apply to the Government of India for power to raise loans in the open market under Local Government Borrowing Rules framed under section 30 (1-A) of the Government of India Act. I find that the Punjab Government has obtained from the Government of India permission to float a loan in the open market. I think it was a 4 per cent conversion loan. The Punjab Government has a project similar to the Mettur Project—the Sutlej Valley Project, and this cost them something like 940½ lakhs. Again their Hydro-Electric Project has cost them something like 6 crores of rupees. During 1931–32 which was a very bad year for the Punjab, they had to take an advance of about 28½ lakhs from the Government of India to meet a deficit of 68 lakhs which was expected on account of loss of revenue. The rate of interest which was charged by the Government of India was so high as 6½ per cent. To decrease the interest charges, the Punjab Government has taken power from the Government of India to raise loans in the open market and they have been able to get loans at 4 per cent interest. I feel that Madras will be able to get loans on similar, if not, easier terms. The Bank of England rate is now only 2 per cent and even the Imperial Bank rate stands only at about 3½ per cent. I don't see any need therefore why the Government of Madras should pay interest at such a high rate as 6 and 5½ per cent. I feel strongly that there is a case for this Government to go to the Government of India for relief. If the Government of India are not prepared to reduce the interest on loans advanced by them, this Government should get power to raise loans in the open market under the Local Government Borrowing Rules. As a matter of fact conversion loans are the order of the day throughout the world. It is not confined to the West alone. Australia recently raised a conversion loan and the Government of India has also floated conversion loans but the Government of Madras is not given relief. I feel that the House should support the Government in their attempt to reduce interest charges, for if the interest is reduced the high water-rates that are sought to be levied in the delta areas may not have to be levied. If the Cauvery-Mettur Project is treated as a purely commercial concern the reduction of interest charges will enable the Government to give relief to the Cauvery landholders. This House should help the Government to go up to the Government of India for relief in this matter."

*Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the motion given notice of by me, viz.—

‘to reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,93,500 for Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project by Rs. 100’

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to ask the Government definitely as to when drinking-water will be supplied to Salem town from the Project. Hon. Members are aware that the Cauvery is running on the border of Salem and Coimbatore and it is also known that Salem is a dry place where good drinking-water could not be got. There is a tank there called Panamaruthupatti tank and this too goes dry at times. Then it will be very difficult for the people of the town to get drinking-water. There are wells but the water is briny. The Government have been giving some excuse or other in this regard. Even though the Government could not supply water from the project for irrigation purposes they must see to the supply of at least drinking-water for Salem town. This question has been before the Government for the last seven years and a survey in respect of the lands lying between Mettur and Salem town has been carried out. The Hon. the Revenue Member has so many times stated that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. But it is not known when the supply of drinking-water could be got. It was said that this may cost about 22 lakhs. The Government will have to spend something and the municipality also. What I want is a definite reply from the Hon. Member as to when a supply of drinking-water from the Mettur Project to Salem town will be made. Though the matter has been pending for the last six or seven years, everything seems to be at a standstill and I do not know what the reason is for the delay."

4-30
p.m.

* The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—"Sir, several hon. Members who have spoken have raised the question of reducing the rate of interest. I think, Sir, Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar touched upon it very briefly and Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar dealt with it at greater length. I would like to reply to that quite briefly. The Government of Madras about six months ago raised with the Government of India informally the question as to whether they might be allowed to meet certain of the Government of India loans which carry rather high rates of interest,* either from their balances or by floating a loan in the open market for that purpose and at that time they received an unfavourable reply. Since then, we have not pressed the matter again, but I am quite willing, in view of what has fallen from hon. Members, to go into the question again and see whether we could not make out a good case to reopen that matter with the Government of India and to press them further on it. We shall also have to go into the question as to whether it will pay us to raise a loan in the open market and the terms on which we can raise such a loan. All these particulars, I am quite willing, having had the support of the House in this matter, to examine further and if we think we have a good case, to press it on the higher authorities."

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar wished to know what are the sources from which savings have been effected in the construction of the Mettur Project, as compared with the revised estimates. I gather from his speech, that what he wanted to know was, whether the savings are due to alterations in the design or to savings in the cost of labour and materials. The savings are mainly due to reductions in the cost of materials of

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various kinds and in the cost of labour. The Engineers in charge have effected a great deal of economy at every possible stage and have taken advantage of the fall in prices whenever it was possible for them to do so. I have here the deviation statement submitted in May 1933, that is to say, nearly a year ago, by the Engineer-in-Chief in which he reports, that the original provision was for a dam contents of 48 million cubic feet at an average rate of Rs. 41-4-0 a unit of one hundred cubic feet. The present provision of 201.50 lakhs includes a sum of about 1.50 lakhs for the cost of parapets and roadway on top of the dam, the balance representing the cost of the contents of the dam proper. Due to deeper foundations the contents of the dam have increased to 54.4 million cubic feet. This increase is almost counterbalanced by the economy effected in the rate per unit in actual execution so that in spite of the 13.3 per cent increase in the total quantity, the cost of the dam proper has remained almost the same.

“The savings under the head ‘Head Works’ altogether were expected to amount to Rs. 21,82,500 and the savings expected under the head ‘Canals’ amount to 36½ lakhs. The works are not yet finished, and we cannot be quite certain yet that we will realize all the savings under the head ‘Canals’ that were anticipated a year ago. On the other hand, we hope to finish the dam by next month, and probably the anticipated savings will be realized.

“Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar wanted to know whether there was any provision in the estimates for recoveries on account of the sale of machinery. Upon an examination of the estimates, I find there is a sum of 10 lakhs provided which includes recoveries on account of the sale of machinery and materials. I do not find any mention of any recoveries on account of the sale of the township, but it is possible that the item I have mentioned may have covered this too; I have, however, not got the details here.” It may perhaps be possible to recover something on this account. The position in regard to this matter is this. A list of surplus stores and machinery has been drawn up and it is now in the Government Press; the list has been drawn up under suitable heads and I understand it may fill sixteen volumes. When this has been printed, it can be circulated to various firms and other persons who are likely to be interested in the purchase of the stores or machinery. Some of the stores and machinery has been sold from time to time. As hon. Members are aware, we issued about two or three years ago, I think, a pamphlet regarding the industrial possibilities of Mettur. That pamphlet was widely circulated and the question whether we should take any further measures to advertise the township is under the consideration of the Government and we are doing our best to accelerate the matter. There have been one or two enquiries made regarding the opening of industries at Mettur, but it is premature to say at present whether they will mature or not. Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar also suggested that possibly we might get more profit by extending the area to be irrigated and providing facilities for irrigating dry crops instead of wet crops. Unfortunately, we cannot extend the area to be irrigated on account of our agreement with Mysore, by which the new ayacut must not exceed 301,000

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acres. But, we are quite ready to provide for the irrigation of other crops besides paddy to meet the desires of the ryots but no suggestion has so far been made to us by the ryots for growing other crops. If the ryots of a block of land state that they want to grow irrigated dry crops and do not require such a large supply of water to be sent down particular channels as would be necessary for the cultivation of paddy crops, I am sure that arrangements can be easily made accordingly by the Public Works authorities.

“Some hon. Members suggested that something should be done to encourage the growing of sugarcane and other crops. That is a point more for the consideration of the Agricultural department and the Minister who is in charge of the department, but I know that the Minister and his department have been giving this matter their earnest consideration for some time. At the present time, sugarcane research work is carried on not only in Coimbatore but also at Anakapalle and Samalkot and at Palur in the South Arcot district. Varieties of sugarcane are being grown in almost all the agricultural stations where facilities exist for their propagation. The successful cultivation of sugarcane on wet land at the Aduthurai research station will it is hoped help to spread its cultivation in the Tanjore delta. It is not possible, primarily on financial considerations, to establish a sugarcane research station in Mannargudi, Pattukottai or Tanjore taluks. However, the Government propose to open a farm somewhere in Pattukkottai taluk to demonstrate the growing of garden and commercial crops in substitution for paddy. The question of the possibility of providing another station in Mannargudi will, I am sure, be considered by the Minister. Attempts have been made in several sub-circles in the Tanjore delta to introduce sugarcane cultivation in small areas for cultivation in rotation with paddy. It is hoped that these trials will help to spread the cultivation of sugarcane in the Tanjore delta. And with the farm in the project area to be opened next year, the possibility of growing of sugarcane in the Tanjore delta would be amply proved and even the manufacture of sugar by means of the open pan method and centrifugals demonstrated. At present, owing to the financial conditions of the province, I am afraid we cannot do anything more.

“Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar wished to know whether Mettur water can be supplied to the Coimbatore district. That is a matter that has been thoroughly investigated on former occasions. If it is possible, it would mean the levy of a very high water-rate, which I am sure the Coimbatore ryots would not be willing to pay. Moreover, the lands likely to be affected thereby will probably be benefited by the Bhavani project now under consideration.

“My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, wished to know how much area has been cultivated this year under the Mettur Project, and how much we expect to be irrigated next year. The forecast for the current fasli was 32,870 acres of first crop in the new area and 5,000 acres of second crop in the old delta area. Reports show that the area irrigated in the new delta amounts altogether to 30,685 acres, a difference of about 2,000 acres as compared to the original forecast. The second crop in the

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old delta for the current fasli is 1,969 acres as against a forecast of 5,000 acres. For the next year the forecast is 81,170 acres of first crop in the new area and 6,000 acres of second crop in the new area and 15,000 acres of second crop in the old delta. We do not know what prospect there is of these forecasts proving accurate. But I must say, the results, as they stand, are encouraging considering the prices at the present time and the organized attempts that have been made to prevent project water being used. I trust that these attempts will now cease.

“ Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai objected to the district board being called upon to pay for the opening of roads in the new area. In the old days, Government, no doubt, provided roads, but they have now delegated their duty in this respect to the local boards and municipal councils and with that delegation of duty they also have given the right to certain taxes. The revenues of the district board will be materially enhanced by the Mettur Project and it is only reasonable that they should contribute towards the success of the project by providing roads. I do not think, therefore, that there is any reason for asking the Government to treat as a grant the loan that is being made for constructing these roads. 4-45 p.m.

“ Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder put forward a new proposal that water should be pumped from the Mettur reservoir itself to irrigate a new area in the Salem district. We have had various projects in Salem, but all of them on investigation had to be abandoned, because they involved a levy of a very high rate of water-cess—sometimes over Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 an acre. It is unlikely that the ryots would be able to pay such a water-rate. If, however, my hon. Friend will give me a copy of his scheme, I have no objection to having the matter examined by the Chief Engineer.

“ With regard to the supply of water to Salem town, I am afraid that is not a matter which is under my immediate cognizance, but it is under the control of the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government. So far as we are concerned, the Irrigation department have no objection to water being taken for drinking purposes though we may expect some payment for the water as a contribution to the cost of the dam. I suggest my hon. Friend should raise the question at the proper time.

“ Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder also referred to the Toppur road. That road is under construction now and it is likely to be completed as far as Mecheri by about July. The completion has been held up owing to slowness in the acquisition of land. I hope that the whole road will be completed within the next financial year. As soon as the road to Mecheri is complete, there will be direct connexion by road between Mettur and Salem. My hon. Friend suggested a shorter route to Nangavalli by the construction of a road from Nangavalli at about the fourth mile to Mettur-Mecheri road. I do not know if my hon. Friend has been over it recently. I cannot recommend it for motor cars. It is very rough and has not been really made as a road in the usual sense; I was warned on my last visit by car not to go by it. The road would really be a new construction. It is a suggestion which the district board might consider but it is hardly a matter which affects the Mettur Project.

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“ Mr. Muniswami Pillai desired that some provision should be made for the settlement of members of the Depressed Classes in the area to be newly irrigated by the project and referred to the fact that there were the estate coolies coming back from the tea and rubber estates in South India and the Malay States. In the first place, I must point out that one of the biggest handicaps in the development of the Mettur Project is said to be—and I think it is probably true—the difficulty of obtaining the necessary labour for carrying on wet cultivation on the several thousands of acres to be newly cultivated with paddy. There is therefore plenty of scope for work for the labouring classes who have returned from the Malay States to this Province. But if any members of the labouring classes combine together and form a co-operative society as Mr. Muniswami Pillai himself suggested, no doubt we will consider the question of allotting some land to the society on suitable conditions.

“ Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar objected to the water-rate and to the reclassification of water sources. On previous occasions I have pointed out that the rates were approved by the Legislative Council when it originally approved of the estimates of the project. I may read a quotation from the remarks made at the time when the estimates were before the House. The question was raised in the House whether the people would be ready to pay so high a rate as Rs. 15 an acre. Mr. Rajappa who was a Member belonging to the Tanjore district said:

‘ I want to tell something about the Tanjore district. Especially this year, some portion of the district has sustained considerable loss owing to the floods and some taluks suffered loss because they did not have a sufficient quantity of rain in proper time. Moreover, the Tanjore people, especially those in the non-deltaic parts, have been for the last so many years anxiously expecting the early execution of this Mettur Project. As far as Pattukkottai and Arantangi taluks are concerned, I may say that the people will be very glad to see an early completion of the work, and they will be prepared to pay the proposed water-rate of Rs. 15 or even more per acre under the existing conditions. As a representative of my community, which numbers about 2½ lakhs, I feel that it will go a great way for the improvement of their lot, as it will do good also to other communities, who are now very anxious to see that the project is carried out as early as possible. So I think the Hon. the Law Member will have every support from this House for this motion.’

It seems to me, Sir, no Member from Tanjore has any right to go back on the solemn undertaking made in this House on behalf of the people of Tanjore. Whether we are actually able to reduce the rate or not is another matter. We may be able to do that after we have completed the work. I am not prepared to make any statement on the subject to-day. It is well known there has been considerable opposition to the development of the project in Tanjore itself. In spite of that, we see that this year a considerable area has been irrigated. It is too early to say whether our forecasts of the development of the project will be fulfilled or not. Until we know the final accounts of the whole project after finishing the dam and canal system and disposing of the machinery, etc., it is impossible to say what the actual cost will be. At the same time, we are not able to say whether the project will be developed rapidly or not. If the project is developed rapidly, say in two or three years, there may be a considerable reduction in the amount of interest charges which

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will have to be taken into consideration. If we can develop the project rapidly, then I think we can safely say that some reduction in the water-rates will be possible. But it is quite impossible to make any definite promise of any kind at the present moment.

“One hon. Member referred to the necessity of providing drainage facilities. The opinion of the engineers has always been that as the area which has to be newly irrigated is very undulating, there is therefore no necessity to make any special drainage arrangements. We have had a few representations from ryots about the difficulty in getting water from their fields to the streams, which drain the country over land belonging to other ryots and we may have to assist the ryots by acquiring lands for them for that purpose. One hon. Member referred to the breaches which occurred in the Paminiyar and the urgency of improving the drainage in the old delta. As a matter of fact, we have been undertaking measures in recent years to set right the drainage of the old delta, but owing to the economic situation and the condition of the provincial finances, we have had to reduce our expenditure in various directions including that on drainage works in the Tanjore delta. We shall not be able to do much this year, and until the Government has more money at its disposal we cannot undertake works on a large scale.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“So far as I am concerned, for the question that I raised, there is no answer. I wanted to know the general policy that was followed by the Government with regard to these rates. However, I will withdraw with the hope that at least in the future Government will consider the question.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—“I have not got proper reply from the Government as to whether they are going to supply drinking-water to Salem town or not. The Chief Minister is not here. Anyhow, I will withdraw my motion.”

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

The House then rose for the day, to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.



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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS